



# The Troubadour

St. Margaret of Cortona Region  
Our Lady Queen of the Angels Fraternity  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

"The rule and life of the Secular Franciscan Order is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of life with God and people. Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly. Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel."

— Rule #4, The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

## November–December 2018

### Upcoming Dates and Events:

**Sunday, November 11—12:30**

**-3:30 p.m.—Gathering** at St. Leo the Great Church

**Thursday, December 6—6:30**

**p.m.—Council Meeting** at St. Leo the Great Church, Room 2

**Sunday, December 9—5:00**

**p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. show**

**—Christmas Celebration** at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre



### Council

Kelly Ann Lynch, Minister  
Mary Anne Fanale, Vice Minister  
Susan Rineer, Secretary  
Larry Rineer, Treasurer  
Beth Treier, Formation Director  
Julie Rasp, Councilor  
Lourdes Morton, Councilor

**Please send newsletter submissions to Kelly Ann Lynch at [lynchkellyann@aol.com](mailto:lynchkellyann@aol.com) or 129 Pennington Dr., Landisville, PA 17538.**

Dear Fellow Franciscans,

What is **compassion in action**? "I was hungry and you gave Me food. I was thirsty and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger and you took Me in. I was naked and you clothed Me. I was sick and you visited Me. I was in prison and you came to visit Me." As Advent approaches, let us each contemplate those words of Jesus from Matthew 25:35-36 and ask ourselves this question, *How do I put compassion into action?*

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, a Secular Franciscan (1207-1231) put compassion into action in the simple way in which she lived—by giving bread to the poor, caring for the sick and establishing hospitals for the sick and lepers. We celebrate her feast day on November 17, and you can read more about her inside (*page 9*).

The Bardi Dossal (*page 3*) gives us a glimpse of how St. Francis put compassion into action by embracing the lepers. The encounter with the lepers was a defining moment in St. Francis' spiritual journey and conversion.

The first creche, created by St. Francis (*page 6*) could also be described as putting compassion into action. After all, it was created to bring the gospel to life for others. Even the Magi put compassion into action as they visited the Christ Child (*page 6*). This year, as we celebrate Christmas together, many of us will see *Wish* at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. By our very presence at this event, we will put compassion into action by helping Mychal's Message care for the poor (*pages 4 and 5*).

During Thanksgiving and Advent, how will you put compassion into action?

With Great Joy,  
Kelly Ann Lynch

## PRAYERS

**Please pray for these brothers and sisters and their families:**

- Ric (recovering from heart surgery; many health issues)
- Tony (health issues)
- Theresa (nerve pain)
- Roberta (knee surgery on November 26)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FROM THE POPE AND THE OFS



**Please pray for these intentions in November.**

**From the Pope:** That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

**From the OFS:** For the national fraternities of the United States, Portugal, Vietnam (VFP), Nicaragua (VFP) and for the CIOFS Presidency.

**Our Father ...**

**Please pray for these intentions in December.**

**From the Pope:** That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

**From the OFS:** For all the national fraternities in difficulty.

**Our Father ...**

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



**Wish them a Happy Birthday!**

- November 9—Jeanette Durbin
- November 11—Jackie Holzel
- November 17—Janet Kreiner
- December 2—Jean Reddy
- December 15—Kelly Ann Lynch
- December 16—Maureen Fitzgerald
- December 27—Kathy Arndt

**Wish them a Happy OFS Anniversary!**



We have no profession anniversaries in November or December, but it looks like we've got 12 in January.



## THE BARDI DOSSAL

*submitted by Kelly Ann Lynch*

It was painted between 1245 and 1255, is over six feet high, and was originally intended to be placed against a wall. The extraordinary Bardi Dossal can be found in the Bardi Chapel of St. Francis in Santa Croce, Florence where it was placed in 1545. The panels contain pictures that depict the life of St. Francis of Assisi and is read from top to bottom on the left, then across the bottom, and from the bottom to the top on the right. Each individual scene is meant to be read from right to left.

The October 2018 issue of the *Magnificat* contained a story written by Francis J. Greene, Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts at Saint Francis College. Greene writes about one scene on the Bardi Dossal in particular (pictured right). “Most notable among many extraordinary scenes is the panel on the lower right, second up from the bottom, wherein Saint Francis tends to lepers, depicted in two adjacent scenes that form one narrative,” Greene writes. “This panel is to be



read chronologically, from the right to the left.” He describes how in that scene, Saint Francis bathes the leper’s sores and then sets aside his apron to truly encounter the leper. “As the viewer’s eye advances to the left it is evident that Francis, his task completed, has laid aside his apron, visible in the background,” Greene points out. “We see a seated Francis holding a leper on his lap.”

Greene goes on to note how this image is “one of the rare depictions of Francis with lepers” and surmises that the reason for this “can be found in the fear and revulsion that leprosy and lepers inspired in people in the Middle Ages.” In his testament, “[Saint]

*(continued on page 7)*





On Sunday, December 9, our fraternity will gather for our annual Christmas celebration. This year, we will have dinner and see a show produced by the local non-profit organization Mychal's Message.

In its fifth year, Wish is a children's Christmas musical featuring seasoned child and teen performers. With Christmas songs and dance, the cast leads the audience through a new story each year.

This year's story begins with a family volunteering at a soup kitchen at Christmas time as they come to understand what homelessness is. Stories of their Christmas traditions will bring you back in time to the first immigrants who came to this country. These families, homeless in every sense of the word, were strong and

brave, and you'll see them pass by the Statue of Liberty as they are welcomed to America's shores. After hearing songs of the past and the stories of traditions passed down, you'll rejoin the family as they return home to put their children to bed.

When the children encounter elves while waiting for Santa, they'll understand what it means to believe. As the parents tell the story of that first Christmas, the nativity is brought to life with shepherds, animals, Wise Men, angels and the Holy Family. There, the children realize that the Christ Child was once homeless too, just like their ancestors.

The Office for Displaced Families has provided Mychal's Message with the names of 32 families this year to receive a full course Christmas dinner with dessert along with gifts for their children (combined total of 90 children). All proceeds of Wish benefit those families.

See the Press Release (page 5) for more information.

Dinner is at 5:00 p.m. followed by the show at 7:00 p.m. **T**



## Wish Performance Makes Wishes Come True

### Local nonprofit announces 5<sup>th</sup> annual benefit show for Lancaster families in need



Lancaster, PA, November 7, 2018—On Sunday December 9 and Monday, December 10, Dutch Apple Dinner Theater in Lancaster will be the epicenter of Christmas spirit as Mychal’s Message presents the fifth annual *Wish* performance. Benefiting 32 area families, this festive holiday show has become a local favorite, consistently selling out the theater for its one-night engagement – in fact, two performances have been scheduled this year. Conceived, written, choreographed and performed *entirely* by volunteer youth, *Wish* is far more than just dinner and a show. As the performers will tell you, it’s a chance to bring Christmas wishes to children who might not otherwise have them.

“It helps poor people by giving them hope and love from Jesus,” said 8-year-old Allegra Essis, a student at St. Leo the Great School, “because it’s Jesus’ birthday on Christmas.” Allegra wants an iPod for Christmas but would give up her wish in order to make the wishes of others come true.

“Being part of the Wish program has made me want to reach out to those who are less fortunate,” said Cate Chadwick, 14, a student at Conestoga Valley High School, “while giving me more opportunity to do what I love – dance and perform with friends.” Cate is one of eight lead dancers in the show this year.

Everly Foster, 13, a student at Camp Hill Middle School, travels a moderate distance to be part of Wish but says she wouldn’t miss it. “Being part of Wish means celebrating the true meaning of Christmas,” Everly said. Everly has a solo in this year’s show, *The Little Drummer Boy* as well as a duet, *Isle of Hope* that will be a tear-jerker for the audience. Everly enjoys being at Wish rehearsals. “When I’m with my Wish family, it reminds me of what is important in life.”

Now in its fifth year, *Wish* is a project of local nonprofit organization Mychal’s Message. Working in partnership with the Lancaster Office for Displaced Families, local families are selected to receive a full-course Christmas dinner and gifts for their children. Each of the children is asked for one wish list item they would like to receive on Christmas. At the top of this year’s list are Nerf toys, Lego sets, board games, and jewelry making kits. All funds raised from *Wish* ticket sales directly benefit those children and their families. The dinner and gifts are delivered on the morning of Christmas Eve.

This year’s show features 36 young performers from kindergarten to college that have been rehearsing since September. Past audience members have remarked about the professional quality of this performance by these children and teens whose collective experience includes performances at American Music Theater, Sight and Sound, Dutch Apple Dinner Theater and the Fulton Theater among many others.

*Wish* takes place Sunday, December 9 and Monday, December 10 at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. Dinner is at 5:00 p.m. and the show starts at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for show only, \$30 for dinner and the show (\$25 for children and students 3-18). Tickets can be purchased by calling the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater box office directly at (717)898-1900, or online at [www.dutchapple.com](http://www.dutchapple.com) under Special Events. Tickets are available now.

*Mychal’s Message is a non-profit organization founded in 2002 that meets the needs of the homeless and poor. To date, Mychal’s Message has distributed over 500,000 new items to men, women and children – coats and blankets, diapers and toiletries, sleeping mats and pillows, hats and gloves, toys and teddy bears, underwear and socks, and many other assorted items. Mychal’s Message was founded by Shannon Hickey Lapp when she was 11 years old. Her simple idea to collect socks for the homeless grew into a ministry that has touched countless lives. For more information, visit Mychal’s Message on Facebook or [www.mychalsmessage.org](http://www.mychalsmessage.org)*



## FROM OUR OFS FRATERNITY ARCHIVES

### "THE FIRST CRECHE"

*submitted by Audrey Shadeck*

*November-December 2011 issue of The Troubadour*



Francis called it a "creche," the French word for cradle. He created the first creche using real people, a real manger, a real donkey and ox, and real shepherds.

He wanted to do something that would help people remember the Christ Child and how He was born in Bethlehem, to see and experience Jesus in the manger; lying on hay with animals nearby.

It was Christmas Eve in the year 1223. At the appointed time, friars and people from the area came to the new Bethlehem to celebrate. Their torches lit up the night as they approached the creche. Once again, shepherds were walking in the night to come and adore Him. All were filled with joy over the mystery of the Birth of Christ. And a great tradition began.

As we gaze upon the Nativity Set at Church or in our own homes this year, may we remember and celebrate once again God's love for His creation and for all His creatures. Jesus Christ, to show His abundant love, mercy and forgiveness, became human exactly like us. This is what the creche meant for Francis and what it means for us today. **T**

## THE BARDI DOSSAL *(continued from page 3)*

Francis himself says that his encounter with and embrace of the lepers marked a defining moment in his gradual conversion and for his future ongoing spiritual journey,” Greene writes. “...Francis’ loving cleansing of the leper’s sores is reinforced by his bending over in a lowly position as the leper sits in newly discovered dignity.” As the viewer’s eye moves left, “the central space with the draped apron provides an effective visual transition from the first scene to the following event,” he writes.

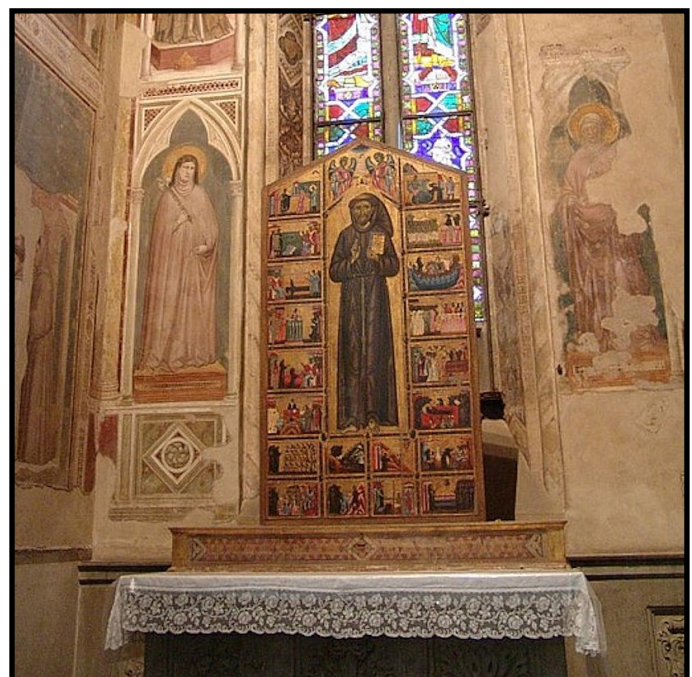
It was perhaps this line in Greene’s writing that caught my eye—“The discarded apron also suggests that the acts of service are completed and now lead to the next stage: personal intimate contact, **compassion**—a genuine ‘feeling with’ - and ultimately, union wherein the two become one through this sharing.”

It is also important to note Greene’s description of that scene on the Bardi Dossal. He writes of a “newly discovered dignity” of the leper. Saint Francis’ position—bending over to wash the sores of the leper—depicts his ‘feeling with’ or compassion for the leper.

In our formation book, *Compassion, Living in the Spirit of Saint Francis* by Ilia

Delio, OSF, Delio writes in her introduction, “The key to Francis’ transformation into love, his secret of making wholes out of the scattered fragments of life, was compassion.” She continues, “He learned compassion as the art of healing broken hearts by collecting the tears of the forgotten, the frightened, and the lonely in his hands and holding the wounded as his kin. Francis entered the world of the stranger and made the stranger into a brother. He learned to love what was weak and fragile, and he learned to care for what the world discarded.”

When we look closely at the image in this centuries-old fresco, we are drawn into this transforming moment of Saint Francis’ life and, as Greene writes, we are invited “to emulate Francis’ example.” **T**





## PRAYING THE FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY

*(4th in a 7 part series)*

As Franciscans, we pray the Crown Rosary to honor the joys of Our Blessed Mother Mary. In *The Franciscan Crown, The Joyful Mysteries in the lives of the Virgin Mary and Saint Francis of Assisi*, by Robert Melnick, OFM Conv. and Joseph Wood, OFM Conv., the authors share stories from the life of St. Francis and relate them to Our Lady. In another book, *Praying the Franciscan Crown Rosary*, by Victoria L. Spalding, OFS, the author gives beautiful meditations on each mystery including special words that could be shared by Our Lady ("Mary Speaks"). And in a third book (purchased in Assisi) entitled *The Franciscan Rosary* published by Edizioni Porziuncola, its author relates the words of St. Francis to each mystery.

### The Fourth Joy of Mary—The Adoration of the Magi

"Going into house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)

In *Praying the Franciscan Crown Rosary*, Spalding writes, "If the Wise Men had not followed the star, which led them to Jesus, they would have remained in the dark. It was their

obedience that caused them to seek out the Christ Child, and it was divine grace that allowed them to recognize Him in this tiny infant." She writes that the Wise Men "came bearing witness to the truth" and invites us to "bear witness to others." She also challenges her readers to ponder whether others also saw the Star but "were not moved enough to obey the divine invitation to seek out the Messiah as the Wise Men did." She asks her readers to ask themselves this question—"How often do we obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit when we are given divine grace?" It was, Spalding writes, "their obedience that caused them to seek out the Christ Child, and it was divine grace that allowed them to recognize Him in this tiny infant."

In *The Franciscan Crown*, Melnick and Wood note the similarities of the Wise Men's recognition of Christ in a poor infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and Francis' recognition of Christ in the leper. **T**





## St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Princess, Third Order Franciscan  
(1207-1231)



St. Elizabeth was born into Hungarian royalty and betrothed at the age of four a nine-year-old prince by the name of Ludwig. The two became close friends, a friendship that grew into a loving marriage. The couple had three children. Ludwig's family disapproved of Elizabeth's piety and her love and charity toward the poor and sick. Elizabeth established several hospitals where she cared for the sick, even lepers. When the first missionaries arrived in Germany, Elizabeth's spirit of poverty became a calling. When Elizabeth heard the story of Clare and Francis, that calling manifested itself as she embraced the rule of a Franciscan tertiary. She won the people's hearts when, during a time of famine while Ludwig was away, she opened the royal granaries, but to the family's dismay.

In 1227, Ludwig died as he traveled back from a crusade. Elizabeth cried out, "The world is dead to me, and all that was joyous in the world." She was now at the mercy of her in-laws who banished her from the court. She left on a wintry night, with nothing but her newborn baby. The only shelter she found was in a pig shed. Elizabeth, who loved the poor, now found herself to be among them.

To avoid a scandal, Elizabeth was eventually given a small cottage and supported herself by fishing and spinning. Her love for the sick and poor continued, and eventually she gained the respect of those who had persecuted her. In 1231, Elizabeth became sick. She died on November 17. She was twenty-four. **T**

## FRANCISCAN SAINTS, THEIR FEAST DAYS AND OTHER SPECIAL DATES

**November 4—St. Charles Borromeo**, Secular Franciscan Cardinal, protector of the Franciscan Order (October 2, 1538–November 3, 1584)

**November 17—St. Elizabeth of Hungary**, Secular Franciscan, Patroness of the Third Order (July 7, 1207–November 17, 1231)

**November 19—St. Agnes of Assisi**, Order of St. Clare; St. Clare's younger sister (c. 1197–November 16, 1253)

**November 21—Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**December 8—Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord bearers

**December 12—Finding the Body of Our Holy Father St. Francis**

**December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**December 25—Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, CHRISTMAS DAY**





## MORE FROM OUR OFS FRATERNITY ARCHIVES



**A Thanksgiving Prayer**  
*November-December 2011 issue of The Troubadour*

*Oh, God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work, help me  
to remember the jobless;  
When I have a warm home,  
help me to remember the homeless;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer.  
And remembering, help me  
to destroy my complacency  
and bestir my **compassion**.  
Make me concerned enough  
to help, by word and deed,  
those who cry out  
for what we take for granted.  
-Samuel F. Pugh*

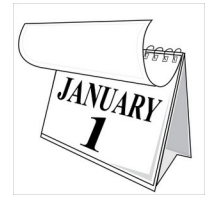


Please remember  
The Catholic Worker House  
this Thanksgiving and Christmas!  
(Call Joe Dougherty 717-560-6366)



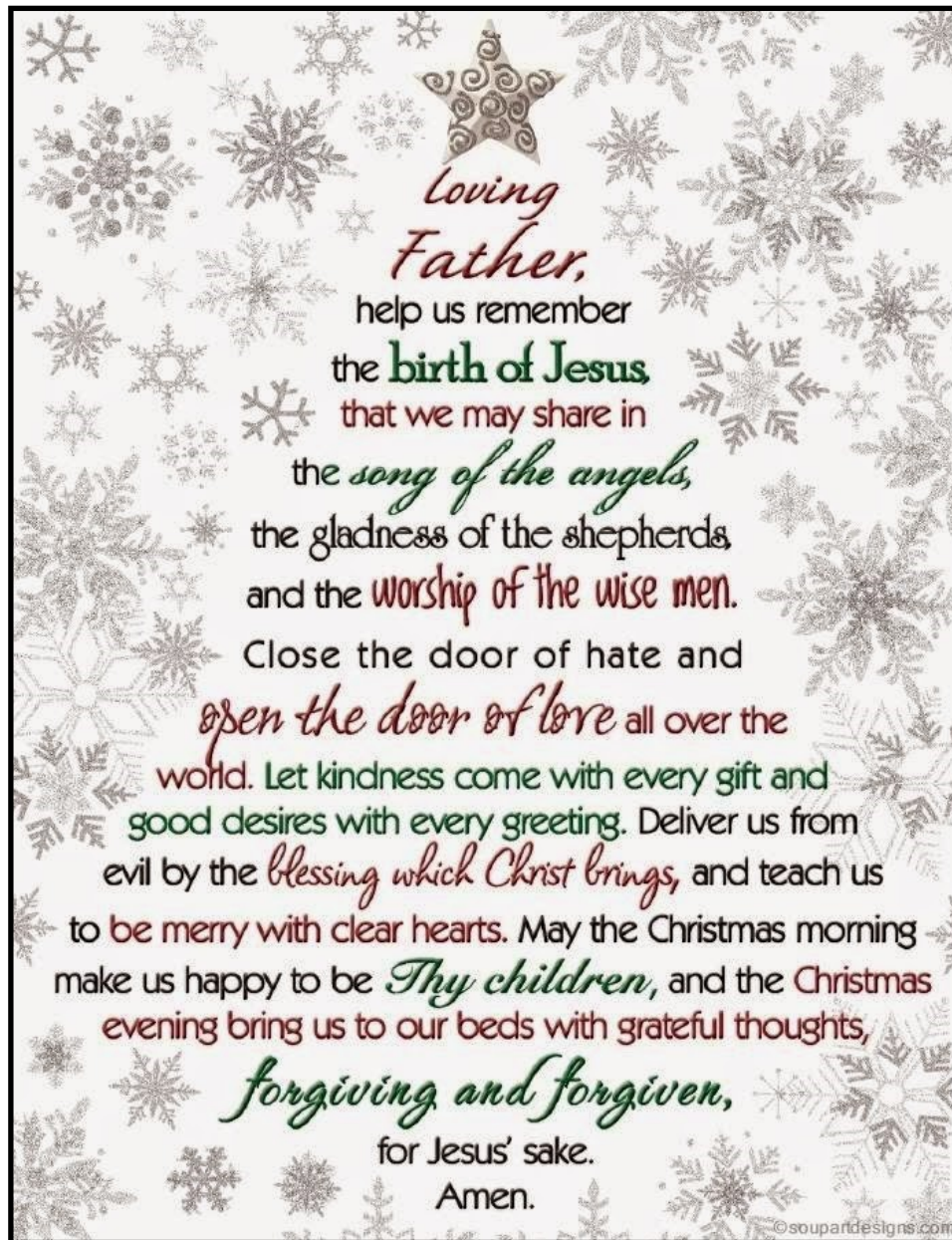
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2019



- January 10 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**January 13 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- February 7 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**February 10 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- March 7 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**March 10 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- April 6 (tent.) Visit to St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia (Mass, presentation, reflection and to serve a meal)  
 April 11 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**April 14 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- May 16 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**May 19 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- June 6 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**June 9 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- July 11 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**July 14 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- August 8 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**August 11 Gathering 12:30—3:30** p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- September 5 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**September 8 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- October 3 **TRANSITUS** (Time and Location TBD)
- October 10 January 10 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**October 13 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- November 7 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**November 10 Gathering** 12:30—3:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church—Crown Rosary begins immediately
- December 5 Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Leo the Great Church Room 2  
**December 8 Christmas Celebration** Location and Time TBD





## Our Lady Queen of the Angels Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Lancaster, PA

established July 22, 1990

For information, contact Kelly Ann Lynch, Minister

(717)-538-6061 or [lynchkellyann@aol.com](mailto:lynchkellyann@aol.com)