



August 2023

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order

From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

Meeting – 1:00 pm. - Sunday, August 13, 2023

- We are collecting backpacks for children needing them for school.
- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – The Pardon of Assisi
- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – verse for the Canticle of Mary and Concluding Prayer are from the Proper of Seasons, the psalms, reading, and intercessions are from the Psalter, Week III, Sunday, Evening Prayer II. Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbll4T20rZz09>

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Minister's Notes

Think back to when you were a child in a family growing up. I know can be a bit of a stretch but try. I doubt many of us had servants or staff. There were tasks appropriate to your age that you were expected to do as part of the family-whether it was carrying silverware to the table as a toddler to dishwashing, making your bed, cleaning your room.

The fraternity is also a family. A family we voluntarily joined. (I can think of a few times growing up when I wished for a different family) The fraternity is our choice. Like a family there are tasks that need doing. Age is a factor here too. Often it is scaling back participation in tasks due to infirmity.

You lead with your actions. The handbook on servant leadership calls it situational leadership. My inaction at the Fraternity meeting last month led Ann Wester to remind me that the Fraternity in the Ukraine asked for financial assistance before August 15. The council all responded to an email and Ann sent a check. I also neglected to mention Aug. 6 at the Poor Clare Monastery. Both items were on the paper in front of me at the meeting (Mea Culpa!). After my first Poor Clare email, Ann Corro pointed out the date was within the novena leading to St. Clare's feast day so the schedule might be different. She took the lead in getting correct info to you while Randy and I were at Franciscan University.

Both Anns took initiative, but they aren't the only ones. Did you ever wonder what happens to the in-kind donations we collect each month? Usually, the same person delivers whatever we collect. Other members faithfully serve a parish ministry or area charity, quietly-no fanfare.

Lastly, I have found myself repeating in multiple situations this last month-sometimes all we can do is pray-remember the best we can do is pray. Thank God for the prayer warriors in our fraternity. The length of the intention lists is awe inspiring.

The September's in-kind donation will be white socks for the homeless.

Pax et Bonum,
Andrea

Prayer Intentions

- *Grace Coipuram, OFS*
- Virginia Roccapiore, widow of Joseph Roccapiore, OFS
- *Rest of the soul of Bob Mochi, husband of Barbara countryman, OFS, minister of Mary, Our Queen Fraternity.*
- Successful hip replacement surgery for Andrea on August 21st.
- *Peace in Ukraine and protection for Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics there.*
- Denise, Ann Wester's sister-in-law for recovery after brain tumor surgery.
- *Clarissa, of STM Parish, having surgery in two weeks and her son Louis-very depressed & not talking.*
- For the Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- *For those who will not pray for themselves and for those who do not have anyone to pray for them.*
- Bishop Alvarez, incarcerated in Nicaragua as a political prisoner for his faith
- *For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.*

- Peace in the world, and brotherhood among peoples and nations.
- *For repose of the soul of Liz Shaeffer's uncle, Wayne Strawser, who recently passed.*
- For our Holy Father Pope Francis.
- For the health and well-being, and safety and protection of all priests

St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM, Conv. Quotes

No one in the world can change Truth. What we can do and should do is to seek truth and to serve it when we have found it. The real conflict is the inner conflict. Beyond armies of occupation and the hecatombs of extermination camps, there are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories on the battlefield if we are ourselves are defeated in our innermost personal selves?

Every fall, even if it be very grave and repeated, serves us always and only as a little step towards a higher perfection.

A man cannot rise any higher than this. The Immaculate is the highest degree of perfection and sanctity of a creature. No man will ever attain this celestial summit of grace, for the Mother of God is unique. However, he who gives himself without limits to the Immaculate will in a short time attain a very high degree of perfection and procure for God a very great glory.

Professions

No professions in August

Birthdays of the Month

Elizabeth Shaeffer (15th)
Andrea Bender (21st)

Necrology

Edna Joyce – August 1990
Cora Weiss – August 26, 1999
Anne Smisko – August 2007
Elizabeth Young – August 2008
Joseph Roccapriore – August 22, 2017

Formation Minister Notes

Ongoing Formation should have some reflection on Sacred Scripture and so here a brief instruction on the Book of Genesis.

Genesis contains many religious teachings of basic importance: the preexistence and transcendence of God, his wisdom and goodness, his power through which all things are made and on which they all depend; the special creation of man in God’s image and likeness, and of woman from the substance of man; the institution of marriage as the union of one man and one woman; man’s original state of innocence; man’s sin of pride and disobedience, its consequences for the proto-parents and their posterity. Despite the severity of their punishment, hope of reconciliation is offered by God through the first as well as the subsequent promises of salvation and blessing. Abraham is blessed for his faith and obedience, and he is to be a blessing for all nations through his offspring, Isaac, Jacob and Jacob’s sons (Gen 12:3, 18:18-19, 22:18), of whom the Messiah, mankind’s greatest blessing, will eventually be born (Gal 3:8) *(The New American Bible)*

Pax et Bonum,
Jan

Secretary’s Notes

We are planning an Open House for our October Meeting. Please think about people you know in your parish, work etc. whom you believe to have a vocation to the Secular

Franciscans.

Several years ago, Ann Wester bought copies of a booklet on the Pardon of Assisi. If you have it, please read for this Sunday’s ongoing formation.

As you should have already read, we have a Formation Minister’s notes this month from Jan.

This is a big month for Franciscan saints. St. Clare is celebrated on August 11, St. Maximilian Kolbe on August 14 and our Secular Franciscan co-patron, St. Louis IX on August 25th. Since many of us use Christian Prayer for Liturgy of the Hours, I am including in excerpts of letters from St. Clare and St Louis in *The Call*. Similar excerpts are in the Office of Readings for their feasts.

I have one reflection on St. Clare and St Francis that comes from a talk by Fr. Steven King, OFM, Conv. It is a thought about the significance of poverty for St. Francis and St. Clare and how their backgrounds shaped their interpretation of poverty. For both of them, poverty was not merely to be poor for the sake of being poor but to imitate Christ. Christ became poor so that we might become rich, but Christ’s poverty was a surrender of power. St. Paul spoke eloquently of this in Phillipian 2:5-11. Christ’s powerlessness was most evident on the Cross and resulted in His exaltation in His resurrection.

Power for Francis was found in money and possessions as he was a member of the up-and-coming mercantile class. He eschewed owning anything and pushed his Friars to follow suite. St. Clare came from the nobility and power came from owning land and her convents would not be endowed with income producing land. So, the question for us is how do we attempt to acquire power? Or perhaps, the question is how do we try to maintain

control over our lives? How can we better put God and neighbor in control of our lives?

and it is a blessing to learn that. I need to learn this as well.

Reflecting on something Tom Bello said to me at one of his last meetings with us, illness has a way of teaching us that we are not in control,

Peace and Good,
Randy

Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

August 2

Feast of St. Mary of the Angels of the Portiuncula - Plenary indulgence available
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12286a.htm>

August 4

Bl. Frédéric Janssoone, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 19, 1838-August 4, 1916)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frédéric_Janssoone

St. John Vianney, Priest, Third Order Secular (May 8, 1786-August 4, 1859)
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08326c.htm>

August 6

Bl. Maria Francesca Rubatto, Founder, Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto (February 14, 1844-August 6, 1904)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Maria_Rubatto

August 7

Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian, Priests, OFM Capuchin, Martyrs (d. 1638)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-agathangel-and-cassian.html>

August 8

Holy Father St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers and Cordbearer (August 8, 1170-August 6, 1221)
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05106a.htm>

August 9

Bl. John of La Verna, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (1259-August 9, 1322)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-la-verna.html>

August 11

St. Clare of Assisi, Founder, Order of Poor Ladies (Poor Clares) (July 16, 1194-August 11, 1253)
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04004a.htm>

August 13

Bl. Marco of Aviano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (November 17, 1631-August 13, 1699)
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0813-19.htm>

August 14

St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM, Conventual, Martyr of Auschwitz (January 8, 1894-August 14, 1941)
<https://saintmaximiliankolbe.com/biography/>

August 16

Bl. Francis Chici of Pesaro. Third Order Secular, hermit (d. 1350)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-francis-cichi.html>

August 17

St. Roch of Montpellier, Confessor, Third Order Secular (c. 1295-August 16, 1327)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-roch.html>

- August 18
Bl. John Louis Loir and Companions, Priests and Martyrs of Rochefort
<https://catholicsaints.info/martyrs-of-the-hulks-of-rochefort/>
- August 19
St. Louis of Toulouse, Bishop, Order of Friars Minor (February 9, 1274-August 19, 1297)
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09385c.htm>
- August 21
St. Pius X, Pope, Third Order Secular June 2, 1835-August 20, 1914
<https://franciscansoflife.com/2015/08/22/st-pius-x-our-brother-giuseppe/>
- August 23
Bl. Bernard of Offida, Friar, OFM Capuchin (November 7, 1604-August 22, 1694)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-bernard-of-offida.html>
- August 25
Bl. Maria del Transito Cabanillas, Founder of the Franciscan Tertiary Missionary Sisters
(August 15, 1821-August 25, 1885)
https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns_lit_doc_20020414_transito_en.html
St. Louis IX, King of France, Patron of the Third Order Secular (April 15, 1214-August 25, 1270)
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=1011
- September 1
St. Beatrice of Silva, Founder, Conceptionist Poor Clares (c. 1424-August 9, 1492)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beatrice_of_Silva
- September 2
Bls. Apollinaris of Posat, John Francis Burté, Severin Girault, Priests and companions, First and Third
Orders, Martyrs of Carmes (d. 1792)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/martyrs-de-carmes.html>
- September 4
St. Rose of Viterbo, Third Order Secular (c. 1233-March 6, 1251)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-rose-of-viterbo.html>
- September 6
Bl. Liberatus of Lauro, Priest, First Order (d. 1260)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-liberatus-of-lauro.html>
- September 7
Bl. Gentle of Matelica, Priest, First Order, martyr (d. September 5, 1340)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gentle-of-matelica.html>
- September 8
Bl. John Tomachi and Sons, Third Order Secular, Martyrs (d. September 8, 1628)
<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-ioannes-tomachi/>
- September 9
Bl. Seraphina Sforza, Poor Clare Nun (1434-September 8, 1478)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-seraphina-sforza.html>
- September 10
Bl. Lucy de Freitas, Third Order Secular, martyr (d. 1622)
<https://joyfulspirit139.blogspot.com/2014/11/bl-lucy-de-freitas.html>
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From a letter from Saint Clare of Assisi, virgin, to Saint Agnes of Prague

(Edit. I. Omaechevarria, *Escritos de Santa Clara*, Madrid 1970, pp. 339-341)



Happy indeed is she who is granted a place at the divine banquet, for she may cling with her inmost heart to him whose beauty eternally awes the blessed hosts of heaven; to him whose love inspires love, whose contemplation refreshes, whose generosity satisfies, whose gentleness delights, whose memory shines sweetly as the dawn; to him whose fragrance revives the dead, and whose glorious vision will bless all the citizens of that heavenly Jerusalem. For his is the splendor of eternal glory, *the brightness of eternal light, and the mirror without cloud.*

Queen and bride of Jesus Christ, look into that mirror daily and study well your reflection, that you may adorn yourself, mind and body, with an enveloping

garment of every virtue, and thus find yourself attired in flowers and gowns befitting the daughter and most chaste bride of the king on high. In this mirror blessed poverty, holy humility and ineffable love are also reflected. With the grace of God the whole mirror will be your source of contemplation.

Behold, I say, the birth of this mirror. Behold his poverty even as he was laid in the manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. What wondrous humility, what marvelous poverty! The King of angels, the Lord of heaven and earth resting in a manger! Look more deeply into the mirror and meditate on his humility, or simply on his poverty.

Behold the many labors and sufferings he endured to redeem the human race. Then, in the depths of this very mirror, ponder his unspeakable love which caused him to suffer on the wood of the cross and to endure the most shameful kind of death. The mirror himself, from his position on the cross, warned passersby to weigh carefully this act, as he said: *All of you who pass by this way, behold and see if there is any sorrow like mine. Let us answer his cries and lamentations with one voice and one spirit: I will be mindful and remember, and my soul will be consumed within me. In this way, queen of the king of heaven, your love will burn with an ever brighter flame.*

Consider also his indescribable delights, his unending riches and honors, and sigh for what is beyond your love and heart's content as you cry out: *Draw me on! We will run after you in the perfume of your ointment, heavenly spouse. Let me run and not faint until you lead me into your wine cellar; your left hand rests under my head, your right arm joyfully embraces me, and you kiss me with the sweet kiss of your lips. As you rest in this state of contemplation, remember your poor mother and know that I have indelibly written your happy memory into my heart, for you are dearer to me than all the others.*

From the Spiritual Testament of St. Louis to his son

Dear son, I advise you that you listen willingly and devoutly the services of Holy Church, and, when you are in church, avoid to frivolity and trifling, and do not look here and there; but pray to God with lips and heart alike, while entertaining sweet thoughts about Him, and especially at the mass, when the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are consecrated, and for a little time before.

Dear son, have a tender pitiful heart for the poor, and for all those whom you believe to be in misery of heart or body, and, according to your ability, comfort and aid them with some alms.

If you have any unrest of heart, of such a nature that it may be told, tell it to your confessor, or to some upright man who can keep your secret; you will be able to carry more easily the thought of your heart.

Dear son, see to it that all your associates are upright, whether clerics or laymen, and have frequent good converse with them; and flee the society of the bad. And listen willingly to the word of God, both in open and in secret; and purchase freely prayers and pardons.

Love all good and hate all evil in whomsoever it may be.

Let no one be so bold as to say, in your presence, words which attract and lead to sin, and do not permit words of detraction to be spoken of another behind his back.

Suffer it not that any ill be spoken of God or His saints in your presence, without taking prompt vengeance. But if the offender be a cleric or so great a person that you ought not to try him, report the matter to him who is entitled to judge it.

Dear son, give thanks to God often for all the good things He has done for you, so that you may be worthy to receive more, in such a manner that if it please the Lord that you come to the burden and honor of governing the kingdom, you may be worthy to receive the sacred unction wherewith the kings of France are consecrated.

Moreover, I advise you to love dearly the clergy, and, so far as you are able, do good to them in their necessities, and likewise love those by whom God is most honored and served, and by whom the Faith is preached and exalted.

Dear son, I advise that you love and reverence your father and your mother, willingly remember and keep their commandments, and be inclined to believe their good counsels.

Dear son, I advise you always to be devoted to the Church of Rome, and to the sovereign pontiff, our father, and to bear him the reverence and honor which you owe to your spiritual father.

Further the right with all your strength. Moreover, I admonish you that you strive most earnestly to show your gratitude for the benefits which our

Lord has bestowed upon you, and that you may know how to give Him thanks.

Finally, most sweet son, I conjure and require you that, if it please our Lord that I should die before you, you have my soul succored with masses and orisons (prayers), and that you send through the congregations of the kingdom of France, and demand their prayers for my soul, and that you grant me a special and full part in all the good deeds which you perform.

In conclusion, dear son, I give you all the blessings which a good and tender father can give to a son, and I pray our Lord Jesus Christ, by His mercy, by the prayers and merits of His blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, and of angels and archangels and of

all the saints, to guard and protect you from doing anything contrary to His will, and to give you grace to do it always, so that He may be honored and served by you. And this may He do to me as to you, by His great bounty, so that after this mortal life we may be able to be together with Him in the eternal life, and see Him, love Him, and praise Him without end. Amen. And glory, honor, and praise be to Him who is one God with the Father and the Holy Spirit; without beginning and without end. Amen.

From Saint Louis' Advice to His Son, in Medieval Civilization, trans. and eds. Dana Munro and George Clarke Sellery (New York: The Century Company, 1910), pp. 366-375.