



Our Lady of the Rosary
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Williamsburg, Virginia

MARCH
2023

www.olrsfo.weebly.com

Message from the Minister. . .

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis,

I would like to start by thanking everyone from the outgoing Council, especially Maria. I feel my transition into my new position will be a smooth one because of all the work that has been accomplished in the last three years.

It took a village and several months to get the election scheduled. To all those who were willing to put their name forward to run for a position on the Council, I thank you. Whether or not you won, you identified yourselves as Franciscan servant leaders to the fraternity and to the region. My message this month will be short. Council will not be meeting as a group until Saturday, March 4th. My prayer is that we will be able to develop goals and programs that will grow us as a fraternity and as a Franciscan family. You'll hear more about how we hope to continue to move forward in the April Newsletter.

As you can see, our newsletter is back. Thank you, Karen for agreeing to continue this important ministry. I know that I have missed it!

Peace and all good,
Peg

Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity 2023 – 2026 Council Members

On February 22, 2023, Randy Bender, Regional Councilor for Virginia St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order presided over our fraternity election of new Council members. Genni McGlynn assisted as the secretary of elections and Ken Holt and Terisa Harris agreed to be our tellers.

Congratulations to the new Council



(L – R) Minister Peg Crews, OFS, Vice Minister Carol Murphy, OFS, Secretary Eileen Murray, OFS, Treasurer Paul Reardon, OFS, Formation Director Donna Kendall, OFS, Councilor Barbara Massey, OFS, Councilor Cindy Holland, OFS

MISCELLANEOUS LENTEN SERVICES IN OUR AREA

Reconciliation Services

St. Bede, Williamsburg March 21st at 7:00 pm in the Nave
St. Olaf, Norge March 23rd at 7:00 pm
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,
Newport News March 7th at 7:00 pm
St. Jerome, Newport News March 2nd at 7:00 pm



St. Bede Parish Mission March 27, 28, 29

“Real Presence – God’s Gift” given by Redemptorist priests over three evenings, along with Daily Mass, Spiritual Direction opportunities, Reconciliation

St. Olaf Taizé Service March 17th

Taizé Prayer comes from the Taizé community in France and is based on repetitive short pieces of music and periods of silence. It is a time of meditation. The service will be themed around and meant to encourage reflection and hope as we navigate through the Lenten season.

St. Jerome Most Sundays during Lent
Their seminarian will be giving Lenten chats after the 9:00 am Mass.

Most Churches have Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings as well as Lenten Soup Suppers.

**** Please check the dates and times with the church. It is always possible that adjustments have had to be made.**

Upcoming Important Dates and Birthdays

January 10 - Donna Kendall

February 3—Chris Wells

March 6—Ani Kelly

14—Karen Coulson

22—Sandra Link



Next Fraternity Meeting—March 19 1:00 PM



Did you know?

Franciscan Friar Jacopone da Todi was known for his poetry and wrote a hymn we often sing during Lent.

Blessed Jacopone da Todi's Story



Jacomo or James, was born a noble member of the Benedetti family in the northern Italian city of Todi. He became a successful lawyer and married a pious, generous lady named Vanna.

His young wife took it upon herself to do penance for the worldly excesses of her husband. One day Vanna, at the insistence of Jacomo, attended a public tournament. She was sitting in the stands with the other noble ladies when the stands collapsed. Vanna was killed. Her shaken husband was even more disturbed when he realized that the penitential girdle she wore was for his sinfulness. On the spot, he vowed to radically change his life. Jacomo divided his possessions among the poor and entered the Secular Franciscan Order. Often dressed in penitential rags, he was mocked as a fool and called Jacopone, or "Crazy Jim," by his former associates. The name became dear to him.

After 10 years of such humiliation, Jacopone asked to be received into the Order of Friars Minor. Because of his reputation, his request was initially refused. He composed a beautiful poem on the vanities of the world, an act that eventually led to his admission into the Order in 1278. He continued to lead a life of strict penance, declining to be ordained a priest. Meanwhile, he was writing popular hymns in the vernacular.

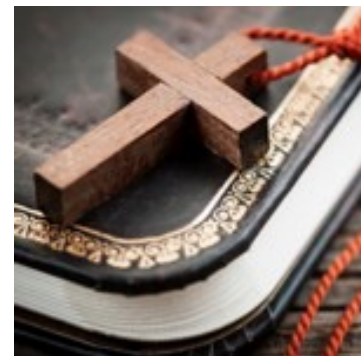
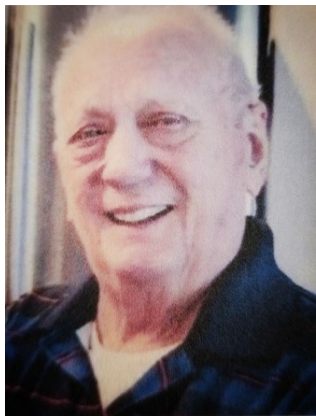
Jacopone suddenly found himself a leader in a disturbing religious movement among the Franciscans. The Spirituals, as they were called, wanted a return to the strict poverty of Francis. At the age of 68, Jacopone was excommunicated and imprisoned by Pope Boniface VIII. Although he acknowledged his mistake, Jacopone was not absolved and released until Benedict XI became pope five years later. He had accepted his imprisonment as penance. He spent the final three years of his life more spiritual than ever, weeping "because Love is not loved."

On Christmas Eve in 1306, Jacopone felt that his end was near. He was in a convent of the Poor Clares with his friend, Blessed John of La Verna. Like Francis, Jacopone welcomed "Sister Death" with one of his favorite songs. It is said that he finished the song and died as the priest intoned the "Gloria" from the midnight Mass at Christmas. From the time of his death Brother Jacopone has been venerated as a saint, although this has never been officially recognized by Rome.

During the final years of his life, Jacopone wrote his most famous poem: *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*, a meditation on the sorrows of Mary at the foot of the cross.

At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last:
Though her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.





Charles Louis Stephan III, OFS

JULY 10, 1936 – JANUARY 20, 2023

Charles Louis Stephan III, 86, peacefully passed from this life due to natural causes surrounded by his family at his home in Williamsburg, Virginia on January 20, 2023. Born in Oklahoma City on July 10, 1936, “Chuck” grew up as a child of the Dust Bowl, moving to Glendale, California; Dallas, Texas; and back to Oklahoma before joining the U.S. Navy in June 1955 as a chaplain’s yeoman. He served on the Bon Homme Richard aircraft carrier sailing the Pacific, before receiving an honorable discharge in 1957. Chuck returned to Oklahoma to work at Oklahoma Gas and Electric before the itch to travel led him to join the U.S. Foreign Service as a passport clerk in 1959. After starting work in the Chicago passport office, Chuck traveled to his first overseas assignment to the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France, where he met, fell in love with, and married Foreign Service Secretary Marie Amarillo, who was also on her first Foreign Service assignment.

Chuck and Marie devoted most of their adult lives to public service, traveling with their family, which grew to four children, to overseas assignments at U.S. diplomatic posts in Paris; Aleppo, Syria; Belém, Brazil; Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Guadalajara, Mexico; Kinshasa, Zaire (now Congo); Manila, The Philippines; Taipei, Taiwan; Nassau, the Bahamas; Nairobi, Kenya; and finally Port-au-Prince, Haiti; with occasional stints in Washington, DC. The State Department commissioned Chuck as a consular officer in 1964, in which role he worked tirelessly for the rest of his career to help American citizens in trouble overseas and manage increasingly complex immigration processes, while leading and mentoring scores of junior officers, both in the office and at his and Marie’s dinner table at home, to become highly accomplished officers who remained devotedly loyal to him for many years to come. His outstanding accomplishments as a consular officer, leader, and manager ultimately led to his Presidential appointment as a member of the United States’ Senior Foreign Service. Chuck’s lifelong insatiable curiosity infused his entire family with a passion for overseas cultures and experiences, including cooking and enjoying local cuisines, art and theater, scuba diving, extensive travel, and most of all human connections.

Following Chuck’s and Marie’s retirement from the Foreign Service in 1997, they settled along the waterfront in Beaufort, North Carolina, where they delighted in hosting their children and grandchildren for regular family gatherings featuring his gourmet cooking, boat outings, and long conversations and fun around the evening dinner table. Following the tragic loss of their Beaufort home in a lightning strike in 2014, Chuck and Marie resettled in Williamsburg, Virginia, where they remained until his death.

Throughout his life, Chuck was a devoted man of faith who gave selflessly with a humility, generosity, and love to others in need, whether ministering to the sick in hospice care, helping the poor and homeless, supporting convents by chauffeuring the nuns to medical and dental appointments, and leading his community of faith in living true to their creed. Chuck and Marie were professed as Third Order Secular Franciscans in 1999, and he served two three-year terms as Minister of his local fraternity in Morehead City, North Carolina.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife of 63 years Marie Stephan; their four children Cheri, Gregory, Geoffrey, and Amanda, and their spouses; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Rest in Peace Chuck
We will miss you

