



*The Little Flower Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order*

*St. Margaret of Cortona Region*

*Come and fed...body, mind, soul, and spirit!!*

*November 11, 2023*

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month)*

Sisters and Brothers of Penance,

In Psalm 85: 8 we read in the Hebrew *shalom* which is translated in our Bibles as peace.

In ancient Judaism, *shalom* meant more than simple peace, lack of conflict, or good tidings.

*Shalom* referred to safety, welfare, health, prosperity, quiet, tranquility, contentment, and friendship. St. Francis of Assisi used the word peace often in his daily life and in his sermons in the fullness of its ancient definition.

Safety, welfare, health, prosperity, quiet, tranquility, contentment, and friendship are attributes of the peace that God speaks to us his people. In essence, when God speaks peace to his people, he expresses his desire for our good. These are also aspects of the holiness that God calls us to become. We are called not to live categories of holiness but to be holiness itself, "Be holy as your Father in Heaven is Holy," Jesus implores us in the Sermon on the Mount.

God knows what is best for us. By showering us with the grace of His *shalom* He gives it to us. We need only say yes to this grace as St. Francis did. It cannot be emphasized enough, when hearing God, we must remember, as St. Francis did, that He is the Lord and that He wants only what is best for us. Let me share three examples from the lives of Mary, Joseph, and Francis.

In Luke, we read of Mary's Annunciation. God sends the angel Gabriel to Mary with the message of the Incarnation. The virginal conception of Jesus requires Mary to trust in God. Scripture says that 'she was greatly troubled' during the Annunciation (1:29).

While she trusts that God will do what the angel says, she is confused about how it will happen. The angel speaks directly to Mary's question when he says, 'Do not be afraid' (1:30).

In Matthew, we read of Joseph's annunciation. Joseph understands that Mary is with child, and he is troubled. The news requires him to trust in God. His heart is filled with emotions, and his mind is racing with questions. Then the angel appears to Joseph in a dream with words of reassurance. God sends the angel to Joseph to say, 'Do not fear' (1:20).

Mary and Joseph didn't expect the news they received from God. They were challenged to trust, a trust that God desired only what was best for them. While the Incarnation of Jesus wasn't in their plans for their

married life, they trusted the One who spoke to them even more than they trusted what was said to them. Once they fully trusted they lived in God's peace despite the turmoil surrounding them.

Francis was commissioned by God to rebuild God's Church. At first, he thought that meant a single building. As he listened to and lived in God's peace he came to understand by prayer and trust that his vision was too limited and that the call was universal renewal, which he accepted.

The same is true for each of us. God is at work in each of us. We can always trust God: always. We can trust him because of Who He Is and because He wants only what is best for us. Do we allow the shalom of God to impregnate us as it did Mary, Joseph, and Francis as we live our Franciscan vocation?

In the peace of Jesus,  
Phillip Francis Pucher, O.F.S, Minister

#### Agenda for meeting

Holy Mass 9am - optional

900am: Burke Hall opens

900-1000- Social Hour

1000am: Call to order/Prayer-Ritual

1010am: **SHROUD OF TURIN PRESENTATION BY Bill Wingard, entitled "Unsolved Mystery: Is the Shroud of Turin the Burial Cloth of Jesus? - FULL SIZE FACSIMILE PHOTO AND SLIDE PRESENTATION!!! DON'T MISS IT!!**

Break

1145am: Closing Prayer and Blessing

1200 noon: Dismissal

**Please bring your own beverage/snack.**

**\*\*\*\*HELP US HELP ST. FRANCIS CHURCH FOOD PANTRY! \*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO EACH GATHERING! \*\*\*\***



*Please keep our contact information in a place with your Will and/or final wishes so that your loved ones can notify us at the appropriate time.*

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

*In order to protect the privacy of our Sisters and Brothers, we are only listing the names of those who have asked for/or are in need of our prayers.*

*Fr. Bart Barb Bruno Mike Huether Bill Thompson*

*Jeremy Rich Polkowski Elsie Saylor Kathleen Hale*

# *Retreat...Reconnect*

Opportunities for spiritual growth



## **Thanksgiving reflection by Michael Huether**

**As we come to celebrate the feast of thanksgiving, I thought I would see what I could find when I googled, “Franciscan Thanksgiving.” Our Franciscan Family has had a part in very many events outside of Church history as well as within, and I found that includes that first Thanksgiving celebration among the first pilgrims from England and the native Americans. Most of us know and visualize this event so well. The pilgrims came ashore in America at Plymouth rock and were befriended by the Native Americans there, who taught the pilgrims how to grow their food. Then the pilgrims prepared a feast with this food and invited the Native Americans out of appreciation and thanksgiving to God for the newly learned know how for such a bounty.**

**But an integral part of this story is always overlooked. Among the crowd of pilgrims and Native Americans was one who was mainly responsible for this event. He was an English-speaking Native American named SQUANTO. It was Squanto who led the Native Americans in the task of instructing the**

**pilgrims in the agricultural techniques for growing the foods consumed at the first Thanksgiving feast. This was because he could speak English fluently enough to translate and had also been educated in the Catholic faith and the Franciscan charism.**

**In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, Squanto's tribe was contacted by the earliest English colonists. The colonists captured Squanto and taught him the English language so he could be an interpreter for them. However, in 1614, the famous Captain John Smith (we remember him as the one who courted Pocahontas) was transporting Squanto, when one of his lieutenants, Thomas Hunt, kidnapped Squanto. Hunt took Squanto to Spain to sell him off as a slave. However, some Franciscan friars (they were supposedly Capuchins, but this is not certain) bargained with Hunt and had Squanto released to them. The friars educated Squanto in the Catholic faith with an emphasis on the Franciscan charism and then baptized him. In 1619, Squanto returned home on a ship captained by John Smith, but when he arrived, he found that most of his tribe had died of the plague about a year previously.**

**God had both prepared and put him in place for what we know what happened next. The following year of 1620 came, and the pilgrims arrived. English colonists hoping to build a new religious community split from the Church of England. They needed instruction on how to survive and prosper in this new rugged country later to be called America, having little food with them. And there was Squanto, ready to serve, speaking fluent English, and capable of rendering great instructional service to the pilgrims in both the Catholic and Franciscan tradition. The pilgrims looked upon him as a miracle and a Godsend. Squanto became an important part of these new settlers' community. The pilgrims even had to step in to save him when he was once again**

**kidnapped by another Native American tribe.**

**Squanto's influence, however, was short-lived. Within two years of the Pilgrim's landing, he became ill and died. So, we thank and bless him for his short but serviceable life for those who first came and started this great country of ours today!**

**As we gather this Thanksgiving with our family and friends, let us remember those blessings Our Lord has given to us, such as Squanto, great and small, and pray together a prayer of Thanksgiving written by our Father Francis:**

**You are holy, Lord the only God.**

**And your deeds are wonderful.**

**You are strong.**

**You are great.**

**You are the Most High.**

**You are Almighty.**

**You, Holy Father, are king of Heaven and Earth.**

**You are Three and One, Lord God, all good.**

**You are Good, all Good, supreme Good, Lord God,  
living and true.**

**You are Love. You are Wisdom. You are humility.**

**You are endurance. You are rest. You are peace.**

**You are joy and gladness. You are justice and moderation.**

**You are all our riches, and you suffice for us.**

**You are beauty. You are gentleness. You are our protector.**

**You are our guardian and defender. You are our courage.**

**You are our haven and our hope.**

**You are our faith, our great consolation.**

**You are our eternal life, Great and Wonderful Lord,  
God Almighty, Merciful Savior. Amen.**

### **Pope's intention:**

We pray for Pope Francis - as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostolic Penitentiary granted the request for obtaining the plenary indulgence for all the faithful who from 8 December 2023 to 2 February 2024 visit the churches run by Franciscan families and fulfill the other requirements for a plenary indulgence, namely, be in the state of grace, receive Communion, go to confession within 21 days of the visit, and pray for the intentions of the Pope (Our Father and Hail Mary)

You can read more about this privilege at

<https://ciofs.info/.../plenary-indulgence-on-the.../>

NOTE: As Franciscans, we can also obtain plenary indulgences on November 17 (Feast of St. Elizabeth) and November 29 (Feast of all the saints of the three orders of St. Francis)

Change in infirmarian contact:

In view of health issues, Helen Tuminello has stepped down from her role as infirmarian. Dennis Bernardo will now head this ministry, and will reinstate call-captains. Dennis' email and phone information is provided at the end of this communication.

# NEWS

## **Birthday Celebrant:**

**Ann German                      November 24**  
**Kathleen Hale                 November 24**

**Profession Anniversaries: None**

## **Deceased Member Anniversaries:**

**Bettie Onorato                 November 2, 2020**  
**Angela Mulcahy               November 14, 2020**

## **Deceased Members 2023**

**Peg Doerfler, Ann Amhrein, Anna Hagerman**

November Charity: Christmas Family

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Beginning Balance 10/27/23	\$2,035.21
Income	482.00
Expenses	0.00
Total Balance (- 10//27/23)	\$2517.21

**Please make ALL checks – Common fund as well as monthly charity,  
payable to: LITTLE FLOWER FRATERNITY**

Mail checks to

Stas Chrazanowski  
2772 Lighthouse Point E, #310  
Baltimore, MD 21224

## Little Flower Fraternity Council

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Bart Karwacki, OFM Conventual

Minister	Phil Pucher, OFS	<a href="mailto:ofsphilpucher.21@yahoo.com">ofsphilpucher.21@yahoo.com</a>	410-243-2924
Vice Minister	Al Gigel, OFS	<a href="mailto:Albertofs14@gmail.com">Albertofs14@gmail.com</a>	443-762-6722
Treasurer (appointed)	Stas Chrazanowski, OFS	<a href="mailto:stanchrz@comcast.net">stanchrz@comcast.net</a>	443-449-7401
Secretary	Teresa Knauff	<a href="mailto:teresalmknauff@gmail.com">teresalmknauff@gmail.com</a>	410-300-4452
Formation Director	Joan Kane, OFS	<a href="mailto:joankane1014@gmail.com">joankane1014@gmail.com</a>	410-925-7910
Elected Councilor	Mike Huether	<a href="mailto:Michaelhuether4@gmail.com">Michaelhuether4@gmail.com</a>	410-963-0190
Elected Councilor	Kelly Frederick, OFS	<a href="mailto:Kellyfrederick0@gmail.com">Kellyfrederick0@gmail.com</a>	410-967-1794
Elected Councilor	Gary Haigley	None	410-477-0016
JPIC Coordinator	Teresa Knauff	<a href="mailto:teresalmknauff@gmail.com">teresalmknauff@gmail.com</a>	410-300-4452
Infirmarian	Dennis Bernardo	<a href="mailto:dennyboy@aol.com">dennyboy@aol.com</a>	410-963-6095



