



Our Lady of the Rosary  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity  
Williamsburg, Virginia



[www.olrsfo.weebly.com](http://www.olrsfo.weebly.com)

2023

## Message from our Minister ...

October was a great month for me and for others for venerating Franciscan relics. It started on the evening of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Transitus of St. Francis. Susan James, Ken Holt and I made a pilgrimage to the Bethlehem Monastery of the Poor Clares in Barhamsville for the Transitus service with the Poor Clare sisters. It was a beautiful service starting with a reading about the life of St. Francis by C.S. Lewis. The remainder of the service was sung in Latin. (We did have copies of the service so we could follow along and sing if so inclined.) After the service we were able to individually venerate a relic of St. Francis. The evening ended with singing Compline. It was a beautiful and solemn evening. Here is a picture of Ken venerating the relic of St. Francis.



The second opportunity to venerate Franciscan relics came later in the month when St. Bede hosted a viewing and veneration of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class relics of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, better known as Padre Pio, a priest of the First Order. This was the only opportunity in Virginia to see the relics. The daily Mass celebrated prior to opening the relics to veneration had over 500 people in attendance.



The veneration was all day and over 2,000 people passed by the five relics to venerate and touch rosaries and prayer cards to the relics. It was a beautiful and holy experience for all who attended. Here is a picture of

Donna Kendal with her granddaughters Giulia and Sofia as they passed by the relics.



We are now entering November, when we remember those who have gone before us. In the past year we have lost Chuck Stephan, Theresa Krawiec and Sandra Link. Please remember them in your prayers this month. I have also been able to add an intention for deceased Secular Franciscans at the 11am Mass on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Since this Mass will be celebrated right before our November meeting, it would be appropriate to attend as a group. I will try to reserve seats.

Christmas is coming and the fraternity helps with Christmas gifts for Sr. Agnes's clients. We no longer make gift bags of toiletries. Instead, in the past two years we have given money to Sr. Agnes that is given to her clients so that they might shop for something themselves. The clients love being able to decide what they want or need and shop for it. Please consider donating this month so that we can write our check early. If possible, donate generously to this worthy cause.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting and hope many of you will be able to attend the 11am Mass prior.

In Francis and Clare,

Peg Crews, OFS



Credit: Jason Bach cartoons

There are so many suffering from the conflict in Israel, please consider praying this prayer to Mary, Queen of Palestine.

### **Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine**

*Our heavenly Mother,  
daughter and Queen of the Holy Land,  
we turn to you to obtain your powerful intercession.  
May graces fall like abundant rain on your people,  
heal all the hardened hearts,  
and bring justice and peace to the Holy Land.  
May Jerusalem shine like a beacon of unity  
between Christians who are privileged  
to live close to the Holy sites,  
sanctified by the life, the passion,  
the death and resurrection of Jesus.  
May this Holy City be a haven of friendship  
and understanding  
between Jews, Christians and Muslims.  
May intolerance and suspicion vanish,  
may love eradicate fear.  
Our Heavenly Mother,  
look with pity on all those who live on the land  
which is yours,  
afflicted by the differences and the conflicts  
for many generations.  
May all those who do not believe in the one God  
be touched by your grace  
and reach the fullness of faith, hope and love.  
Through Christ, Our Lord.  
Amen.  
Our Lady, Daughter and Queen of the Holy Land,  
pray for us.*







St. Margaret of Cortona OFS Region

## The Joy of Franciscan Advent and The Incarnation

Hosted by Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity

St. Francis is the creator of the creche or nativity scene that is so commonly displayed during Advent. This reminds us of his love and excitement about the birth of our Lord Jesus. Our Franciscan spirituality has rich and deep teachings about the Incarnation and Advent.

Join your OFS brothers and sisters in a day of reflection and unity commemorating Advent and our special Franciscan perspective and spirituality.

Hosted by Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity this day of reflection as follows:



- **When:** Saturday - December 16, 2023
- **Time:** 9:00 am to 3:00pm
- **Where:** St. Clare of Assisi Retreat House, 620 Buckroe Avenue, Hampton VA 23664
- **Cost:** \$20.00 per person. Please note that all are welcome, even if unable to pay.
- **Deadline for Sign up is Saturday, December 9, 2023.**

\* A free will offering will be collected in the afternoon for Fr. Charley.

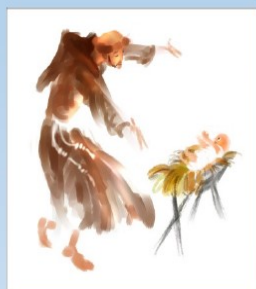
Fr. Charley Miller, OFM will be talking with us about the Franciscan view of Advent and the Incarnation. Just right to bring us to a spirit filled heart for Christmas!

The day will begin at 9:00 am with Mass and end at 3:00 pm. There will be presentations, small group reflection and lunch is included.

Please contact Rita Colleran 703-310-9958 or [rlcolleran10@gmail.com](mailto:rlcolleran10@gmail.com) or Peg Crews , Minister of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Fraternity [peg.crews@gmail.com](mailto:peg.crews@gmail.com) for more information or any questions.

To register, click on the link below to be taken to Sign up Genius registration. The fee will be collected at the door. If you are unable to access this, please contact Rita 703-310-9958 or email [rlcolleran10@gmail.com](mailto:rlcolleran10@gmail.com).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAAA72EAAF94-44739143-thejoy#/>



*We are looking forward to seeing you there  
and enjoying our time together!*



## A Reflection About Bread From Our Formation Director—Donna Kendall

Now that we are well into the season of Autumn and the chillier weather awakens our senses: the sight of colorful foliage, the briskness of cooler temperatures, the scent emitted by a wood-burning fireplace, the sound of rustling leaves – one of the most fulfilling gifts we can enjoy is homemade bread. The aroma filling the home, the taste of a warm slice with melted butter or olive oil fills the soul with an indescribable satisfaction.

Personally, I don't do as much baking in the summer because of the heat and I gravitate towards cold foods like salads and sandwiches, but once autumn hits, the slow cooker steams with soups and there is usually bread baking in the oven. As November approaches I like to think of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, whose feast day we celebrate on November 17. She is most often pictured with a basket of bread that she shared with the poor.

Bread is an amazing thing if you really stop to think about it. The ingredients are very simple: flour, yeast, salt, water, and a bit of oil. But what makes it amazing is the *process of making bread*. *A delicious loaf of bread cannot be rushed. It takes time. The yeast has to do its thing when mixed with water. The dough must be kneaded properly. Then, the dough must rise. Finally, the bread must be baked at the correct temperature. My mother taught me to use a knife and draw a cross into the dough to bless it before I cover it and put it into the oven to prove.*

If you think about it, each human being is a bit like a loaf of bread. (I'm not making this up; there are blogs written about this!) "The Holy Spirit is like the yeast; He is a gift given to us by God to work in us in order to make sure we rise. His work in me takes time. Proving of my character, so to speak, is never a quick process, just like proving my bread dough." (Sherry Fam) Certainly, this process does not happen quickly. It happens in God's time.

Aren't we fortunate, as Catholics, to have the bread of life that aids in our process of sanctification? Francis' devotion to the Eucharist presents us with a beautiful example of the transformative process of receiving Christ's body and blood. When Francis approached the Blessed Sacrament and received the Body and Blood of Christ, he did so like a child in complete awe of his loving Creator. "For Francis, Communion was the grand exchange it should be, wherein he received the Gift unspeakable, and in return gave himself to be lifted up and transfigured and made a partaker in the intimate life of God Himself." (Father Albert J. Nimeth, O.F.M)

We pray: Give us this day our daily bread.

Pax e bonum

Donna



## The Pope's Monthly Intentions



**November** — For the Pope



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

---

### Upcoming Important Dates

#### **Anniversary of Profession:**

Annie Pepper — November 5, 1995

Cindy Holland — November 14, 2015

\*\* Ken Holt—October 24, 1999 (missed in last edition)



#### **Birthdays**

**Eileen Murray — November 3**

**Peg Crews — November 5**

**Glenda Hines — November 19**

**Glen Davis—November 21**

**Ken Holt—November 21**

**Sr. Agnes — November 24**

**Next Fraternity Meeting—November 19 at 1:15pm (social gathering from 12:30-1:15)**

**Looking ahead to December ... Advent Day of Reflection Saturday, December 16, 2023**

---

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Minister: Peg Crews [peg.crews@gmail.com](mailto:peg.crews@gmail.com)  
[cjmurphy@usa.com](mailto:cjmurphy@usa.com)

Vice Minister: Carol Murphy

Secretary: Eileen Murray [eamurray3@gmail.com](mailto:eamurray3@gmail.com)  
[don948@gmail.com](mailto:don948@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Paul Reardon [rear-](mailto:rear-don948@gmail.com)

Formation Director: Donna Kendall [domenica145@gmail.com](mailto:domenica145@gmail.com)

Councilor-at-Large: Barbara Massey [barbmarlin@verizon.net](mailto:barbmarlin@verizon.net), and Cindy Holland [cynthia.holland@cox.net](mailto:cynthia.holland@cox.net)

**A Gentle Reminder. . . If work, health reasons, or significant family obligations hinder you from attending the gathering, contact our Vice Minister, Carol Murphy [atcjmurphy@usa.com](mailto:atcjmurphy@usa.com) and let her know.**