



October 2023

## **THE CALL**

### **St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order** *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

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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 p.m. - Sunday, October 8, 2023**

- Collect food for a local food bank. Please pick one with a collection site that you can get to and deliver food there.
- Opening Prayer – Ritual, p. 35.
- Ongoing Formation – We will be watching and discussing a portion of the video, *Sign of Contradiction – The Story of St. Francis of Assisi* by Fr. David Pivonka, TOR.
- Fellowship
- Business Meeting
- Liturgy of the Hours – Evening Prayer II for the Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
*Hymn* - TBD (Please bring your hymnal and breviary)  
*Psalms, Reading/Responsory* – Psalter: Sunday, Week III, Evening Prayer II  
*Magnificat Antiphon* – Proper of Seasons: 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
*Intercessions* - Psalter: Sunday, Week III, Evening Prayer II  
*Prayer* - Proper of Seasons: 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Closing Prayers – Ritual, p. 36.

#### **Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info**

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqblI4T20rZz09>

Dial by your location: Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041 Passcode: 668951

#### **Minister's Notes**

Last month Jan talked briefly about the 4 Cs of the Franciscan charism; the Crib,, the Cross, the Cup, and Creation. Upon reflecting on recent years of living as a Franciscan Christian, I realize that I often focus on one charism for weeks or months at a time, The year we were expecting our first grandchild was definitely a Crib/Incarnation year. The incarnation is

something I keep coming back to, a sort of home base for my prayer life.

That is further reflected in my being more comfortable with the joyful mysteries than the sorrowful mysteries that focus on the Cross. It is interesting that at times of personal suffering my prayer life does not swing to the Cross but

rather focuses on either the Joyful (Crib) or Glorious Mysteries. After all God humbled himself to become a human child, even if he knew an ugly death was part of the package. Jesus' glory returns with the Resurrection and the Glorious Mysteries.

The times I focus on the Cross are actually the times I focus on the Cup. I was catechized in an era when it was always called the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Our parish has an oversize, can't miss it size, crucifix behind the altar. In my mind the Cross and the Cup are intertwined.

The fourth C charism is creation. The bird bath St. Francis comes to mind. For me care of creation starts with admitting to myself that I

am creature. I am a child of God, created by God and held into being by God. I am one of many creatures. That leads me to a deeper understanding and appreciation for other creatures. The world does not revolve around me or what I see as my needs.

What "C" charism, the Crib, Cross, Cup or Creation is your prayer life emphasizing this month? Do you have any idea why? This question may take a bit of time to answer.

This month the fraternity will view a segment of Sign of Contradiction. We will host an open house and we will collect food for local food banks.

Pax et Bonum, Andrea

### Prayer Intentions

- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- *Virginia Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS*
- That the Holy Spirit guide the Synod on Synodality opening on October 4<sup>th</sup> and that the Synod members heed that guidance.
- *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, for recovery from surgery 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.*
- For all imprisoned Christians imprisoned for their belief in God and for religious freedom.
- *For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.*
- Peace in the world, and brotherhood among peoples and nations.
- For our Holy Father Pope Francis.
- *For the health and well-being, and safety and protection of all priests.*
- For Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- For John Jr. & Kathy Cassidy as they move to Oakton.

### Rosary Quotes

*"Go to the Madonna. Love her! Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it as often as you can! Be souls of prayer. Never tire of praying, it is what is essential. Prayer shakes the Heart of God, it obtains necessary graces!" Saint Padre Pio*

*"The Rosary is a magnificent and universal prayer for the needs of the Church, the nations and the entire world." Saint John XXIII, Pope*

*"If you recite the Family Rosary, all united, you shall taste peace." Saint John XXIII, Pope*

*"May the Rosary never fall from your hands." Saint John XXIII, Pope*

*"You must know that when you 'hail' Mary, she immediately greets you! Don't think that she is one of those rude women of whom there are so many — on the contrary, she is utterly courteous and pleasant. If you greet her, she will answer you right away and converse with you!"*

*Saint Bernardine of Siena*

**Professions**

10/11/1998

Anna Claire Smith (Mary)

10/14/ 2001

April Garcia (Francis)

**Birthdays of the Month**

Ralph Palasek (6<sup>th</sup>)

Bernadette Lozano (23<sup>rd</sup>)

**Secretary’s Note**

This month we celebrate the Solemnity of our Seraphic Father Francis on October 4. On page 7 is the poem that begins the Prologue that St. Bonaventure wrote for his Major Legend of St. Francis. Legend was the medieval title for a biography of a saint. That is not its contemporary meaning of an unverifiable tale.

October is also the month of the Rosary. We as Franciscan also have our Franciscan Crown Rosary. Below is instruction on this devotion

**Necrology**

William F East – October 1989

Leo J Hannon – October 1990

Maria Alicia Heusser – October 1994

Elmer V Dean – October 1994

Gerhard Lubbers – October 1994

Maude G Pierce – October 1996

Johanna Hannon – October 1996

Dorothy Renkes – October 1998

R. Marie Hopkins – October 7, 2013

from the For Up To Now Manual; the guide to OFS formation.

Page 4 has the save the date for the Chapter of Mats which for us is a periodic gathering of as many Secular Franciscans who come to reflect on and celebrate our vocation.

Peace and Good,  
Randy

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**Franciscan Crown Rosary in the FUN Manual**

At the same time, Francis placed Mary as the Protectress of the Franciscan family: she holds a special place in our hearts and lives. There are some very authentic and specifically Franciscan ways of expressing this relationship. One option for our daily Office, for example, is the Little Office of the Virgin Mary, in its contemporary form, patterned after the Liturgy of the Hours. We have the Franciscan Crown Rosary, the “seven joys of Mary.” So, while it would be inappropriate to make the Crown our normative prayer at fraternity meetings, at certain times of the year, particularly May or October, this may be a wonderful form of communal prayer. And in all of this, like the Franciscan life in general, we must always remember that we are people of our own time, and that we cannot and should not slavishly try to imitate Medieval spirituality. [*Basic Catholic Doctrine – 3-23-2011 Page 21 of 24*]

As stated previously by Pope Paul VI, our own Franciscan tradition holds up for our consideration two devotions to Mary as alternative means of

praying the Liturgy of the Hours: the Franciscan Crown Rosary and the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin. Francis noted Mary to be the first disciple of our Lord. He followed her example unreservedly. He urges us to do the same. [*Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary 3-23-2011 Page 10 of 16*]

The Franciscan Crown also shows honor to the Blessed Virgin Mother. It is the rosary of the seven joys of Mary and is appropriate for Franciscans to recite. The story behind the Franciscan Crown Rosary came about in the year 1422 when a young man who daily adorned a statue of Mary with a wreath of flowers was upset that he could not continue to do so since he had entered the friary. As the story is told, Mary appeared to him and asked him to give her a crown of flowers in the form of reciting seven decades of Hail Marys in honor of her seven joys: The Annunciation, the visit to Elizabeth, the Nativity, the adoration of the Magi, locating Jesus in the Temple, experiencing the Risen Jesus on Easter and her Assumption. This devotion quickly was said through the Franciscan family. At a later point in

time, the seven decades were followed with two Hail Marys in honor of the seventy-two years that it is believed she lived. One Our Father and Hail Mary were also added for the intention of the pope.

[Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary 3-23-2011  
Page 11 of 16]

[Compiled by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S.,  
Revised July 2017]

## SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 **Chapter of Mats**  
**The Next 800 Years**

The Chapter is a gathering of Secular Franciscans  
to celebrate -  
where we've been, where we are now, where we are going.

**September 6-8, 2024**

**Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland**

Watch the *Up to Now* for more details.

**\*\*Please share with ALL members of the fraternity.\*\***

## RESERVA LA FECHA

Únanse con nosotros para el **Capítulo de las Esteras** de Santa  
Margarita de Cortona 2024

**Los Próximos 800 Años**

El Capítulo es una reunión de Franciscanos Seglares  
para celebrar -  
donde hemos estado, donde estamos ahora, hacia donde vamos

**Del 6 al 8 de Septiembre de 2024**  
Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland

Miren *Hasta Ahora* para obtener más detalles

**\*\*Por favor compartan con TODOS los miembros  
de las Fraternidad\*\***

## 날짜를 기억 하세요

2024 년 코르토나의 성 말가리따 돛자리 총회에 참여 하십시오  
**앞으로 800년**

이 총회는 재속 프란치스칸의 모임입니다.

다음 사항을 기리기 위해서-

우리는 어디에 있었고, 우리는 지금 어디에 있으며, 우리는 어디로 가고 있는가.

**2024년 9월 6-8일**

**장소 : Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland**

자세한 내용은 지금까지의 사항을 참조 하십시오.

**\*\* 형제회의 모든 회원님들께 알려 주시기를 부탁드립니다.\*\***

## Saints of the Month

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

October 1

Bl. Nicolas of Forca Palena, Priest, Third Order Regular (September 10, 1349-October 1, 1449)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-nicholas-of-forca.html>

October 3

Commemoration of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi

**October 4**

**Solemnity of our Seraphic Father Saint Francis**

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/solemnity-of-saint-francis.html>

October 5

Bl. Felicia Meda, Order of Poor Clares (1378-September 30, 1444)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-felicia-meda.html>

October 6

St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, Third Order Secular (March 25, 1715-October 7, 1791)  
<https://www.mysticsofthechurch.com/2018/06/st-mary-frances-of-five-wounds-of-jesus.html>

October 10

St. Daniel and Companions, Angelo, Domnus, Hugolinus, Leo, Nicholas, and Samuel  
Priests, Order of Friars Minor, Martyrs of Morocco (d. October 10, 1227)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-daniel-and-companions.html>  
Bl. Marie-Angela Truszkowska, Founder, Third Order Regular May 16, 1825-October 10, 1899)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela\\_Truszkowska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Truszkowska)

October 11

St. John XXIII, Pope, Third Order Secular (November 25, 1881-June 3, 1963)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope\\_John\\_XXIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_XXIII)

October 12

St. Seraphin of Montegrano, Religious, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin  
(1540-October 12, 1604)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-seraphin-of-montegrano.html>

October 13

Bl. Honorat Kozminski, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin  
(October 16, 1829-December 16, 1916)  
<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/1216-23.htm>

October 17

Bl. Balthazar of Chiavari, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (1420-October 17, 1492)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-balthassar-of-chiavari.html>

October 18

Bl. James of Strepar, Archbishop, Order of Friars Minor, Conv. (c. 1340-October 1409)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-james-of-strepar.html>

October 19

St. Peter of Alcántara, Priest, Franciscan Stricter Observance (1499-October 18, 1562)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11770c.htm>

October 23

St. John Capistrano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (June 24, 1386-October 23, 1456)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08452a.htm>  
Bl. Josephine Leroux, Poor Clare, martyr (January 23, 1747-October 23, 1794)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-josephine-leroux.html>

October 25

Bl. Maria Jesus Ferragut, virgin and companions, Martyrs of Valencia [Maria Veronica Masiá, Maria Felicity Masiá Ferragut, Isabel Claduch Rovira, Milagros Ortells Gimeno], Poor Clares, d. 1936

<https://capuchinos.org/ingles1/blog/profile/b-maria-jesus-masia-ferragut-y-companeras-martires/>

October 26

Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventuals (d. October 26, 1711)

<http://hagiomajor.blogspot.com/2012/10/october-26-blessed-bonaventure-of.html>

October 29

Bl. Thomas of Florence, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (1370-October 31, 1447)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-thomas-of-florence.html>

October 30

Anniversary of the Dedication in Consecrated Churches of the Seraphic Order

Bl. Angelo of Acri, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin

(October 19, 1669-October 30, 1739)

<https://saintscatholic.blogspot.com/2014/03/blessed-angelus-of-acri.html>

October 31

Bl. Christophe of Romagne, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1172-October 31, 1272)

<http://ecole-franciscaine-de-paris.fr/christophe-de-romagne-bienheureux/>

November 3

Bl. Helen Enselmini, Poor Clare Nun (1208-November 4, 1242)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-helen-enselmini.html>

November 4

St. Charles Borromeo, Secular Franciscan Cardinal, Protector of the Friars Minor

(October 2, 1538-November 3, 1584)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Charles-Borromeo>

Bl. Teresa Manganiello, Third Order Secular (January 1, 1849-November 4, 1876)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-teresa-manganiello/>

November 5

Commemoration of All the Deceased of the Seraphic Order

<https://faustynka.livejournal.com/12261.html>

November 6

Bls. Alfonso López, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs of the Civil War in Spain

(Died 1934, 1936-1939)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs\\_of\\_the\\_Spanish\\_Civil\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_the_Spanish_Civil_War)

Bl. Marguerite de Lorraine, Poor Clare Nun (1463-November 2, 1521)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09655a.htm>

November 7

St. Didacus of Alcalá, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Observant (c. 1400-November 12, 1463)

<https://www.sdcatholic.org/diocese/bishops/saintdidacus.aspx>

Bl. Raynier of Arezzo, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1304)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-raynier-of-arezzo.html>

November 8

Bl. John Duns Scotus, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Doctor of the Church

(c. 1266-November 1308)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-duns-scotus.html>

November 9

Bl. Gabriel Ferretti, Priest, First Order (1385-November 12, 1456)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gabriel-ferretti.html>

# Prologue<sup>1</sup>

## Here Begins the Prologue to the Life of Blessed Francis

By St Bonaventure of Bagnoregio. OFM

*The grace of God our Savior has appeared  
In the last days* (Titus 2:11)  
in His servant Francis  
to all who are truly humble, and lovers of holy poverty,  
who, while venerating in him, God's superabundant mercy,  
learn by his example  
to reject wholeheartedly *ungodliness and worldly passions*, (Titus 2:12)  
to live in conformity with Christ  
and to thirst after *blessed hope* with unflagging desire. (Titus 2:13)

In an outpouring of kindness,  
*the Most High God looked upon him*, (Job 36:22)  
*a little, poor, and contrite man*, (Isaiah 66:2)  
so that He not only *lifted up the needy man* (1 Kings 2:8)  
*from the dust* of a worldly life; (Isaiah 49:6)  
but gave him as a light for believers,  
a practitioner, a leader, and a herald of Gospel perfection.  
that by *bearing witness of the light* (John 1:7)  
he might *prepare for the Lord a way* of light and peace (Luke 1:76, 79)  
in the hearts of the faithful.

Shining with the splendor of his life and teaching,  
*like morning star in the midst of the clouds*, (Sirach 50:6)  
by his resplendent rays he guided into the light  
those sitting in *darkness and in the shadow of death*, (Luke 1:79)  
and, like *the rainbow shining among clouds of glory* (Sirach 50:8)  
he made manifest in himself  
*the sign* of the Lord's covenant. (Genesis 9:13)

*He preached* to the people (Romans 10:15)  
*the Gospel of peace* and salvation,  
being himself *an angel of true peace*. (Isaiah 33:7)  
Like John the Baptist,  
He was destined by God  
to *prepare in the desert a way* of highest poverty (Isaiah 40:3)  
and to *preach repentance* by word and example. (Luke 24:47)

First endowed with divine grace,  
he was then enriched  
by the merit of unshakeable virtue  
and *filled with the spirit* of prophecy, (Luke 1:67)

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<sup>1</sup> The Founder, Vol. 2 of Francis of Assisi the Early Documents, Regis J. Armstrong, O.F.M., Cap., J. A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M., Conv., William J. Short, O.F.M., eds, New York: New City Press, 1999, pp. 525-28..

he was also assigned an angelic ministry  
and was totally inflamed with Seraphic fire.

Like a hierarchic man,  
lifted up on a *fiery chariot*, (2 Kings 2:11)  
it may be reasonably accepted a true  
that he came *in the spirit and power of Elijah*, (Luke 1:17)  
as will appear quite clearly in the course of his life.  
And so in the true prophecy  
of that other *friend of the Bridegroom*, (John 3:29)  
John the Apostle and Evangelist  
he is considered not without reason  
to be like the Angel ascending from the rising of the sun  
bearing the seal of the Living God.  
For "*at the opening of the sixth seal*," (Revelation 6:12)  
John says in the Apocalypse,  
"*I saw another Angel  
ascending from the rising of the sun  
having the sign of the Living God.*" (Revelation 7:2)

If we consider the height of his extraordinary sanctity  
we can come to the conclusion, without any doubt,  
that this messenger of God  
--worthy of love by Christ,  
imitation by us,  
and admiration by the world—  
was God's servant, Francis.  
In this, while living among humans,  
he was an imitator of angelic purity  
and was placed as an example for the perfect followers of Christ.

This conviction should be faithfully and devotedly  
in the forefront of our minds;  
not only does this advance the mission he held  
*of calling to weep and mourn*, (Isaiah 22:12)  
*to shave one's head and wear sackcloth,*  
*and to sign the Tau*  
*on the foreheads of those mourning and grieving* (Ezekiel 9:4)  
with a sign  
of a penitential cross,  
and the habit conformed to the cross,  
even more,  
It confirms with irrefutable testimony of truth that  
*the seal of the likeness* of the Living God. (Ezekiel 28:12)  
that is, of *Christ crucified*, (Ezekiel 28:12)  
was imprinted on his body,  
not by natural forces or human skill,  
but by the wonderous power *of the Spirit of the living God*. (2 Corinthians 3:3)