



Our Lady of the Rosary
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Williamsburg, Virginia

DECEMBER
2023

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Message from our Minister ...

Hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving!

November was both a time of Thanksgiving for all the blessings that God granted us during 2023 and a remembering of those of our fraternity who left us this year: Chuck Stephan, Theresa Krawiec, and Sandra Link. Their presence will be missed by all!

On November 3rd, our fraternity joined with the Little Sisters of St. Francis to celebrate the centennial of the founding of their order. (See below for the article was printed in the Catholic Virginian.)

As we move into December, I am looking forward to Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity hosting the Advent Retreat at Saint Clare of Assisi Retreat Center. Our numbers will be augmented by Franciscans that will come from around the St. Margaret of Cortona Region. I have heard Fr. Charley lead other retreats, and he is a wonderful speaker. The topic is the Incarnation, and I know each of us will come away from the retreat with a new appreciation of the mystery of the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus, the Word of God, becoming human. There are a few who have not yet signed up for the retreat. The retreat is replacing our normal December meeting, so I am asking all who have not signed up to do so by December 6th. Let me know if you have any difficulties. We will be carpooling to the retreat center. An email for sign-up will come out closer to the retreat date.

December is the month we donate funds to Sr. Agnes to help with Christmas for her clients. It is never too late to contribute. I will be accepting donations for this worthy cause at the retreat.

The following is a prayer I found on Creighton University website for Advent. They have a prayer a day for the entire season. Check it out at:

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/Daily-prayers.html>

Loving God,
I sense that all is your creation
and everything, and all of us,
are being drawn back toward your loving heart.

Help me to be a person of peace,
To speak about it in an uneasy world,
And to live it among the people
you have put into my life every day.

Light in me a desire to prepare for your coming
to stand in the darkness, waiting, eager and filled with joy.



Have a blessed Advent and joyous Christmas, Peg

Little Sisters of St. Francis celebrate centennial: (from the Catholic Virginian)

The Little Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of their order. Friday, Nov. 3, Bishop Barry C. Knestout celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving with the sisters at St. Bede, Williamsburg.



Twelve of the Little Sisters of St. Francis attended the centennial celebration – joining the local sisters from northern Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Eight sisters live within the Diocese of Richmond, in Williamsburg and Quinton. They were joined by their fellow sisters as well as clergy from across the diocese for the Mass and a reception.

The Little Sisters of St. Francis is a religious order of East African women, founded in 1923 in Uganda by Mother Mary Kevin Kearney, a Franciscan Missionary nun from Ireland. She was asked to journey to East Africa in the 1900s to minister to people at the missions. She founded the order 100 years ago; eight women became Little Sisters of St. Francis in 1923. Mother Kevin died in 1957 and was declared a Servant of God in 2016, when the cause for her beatification was accepted.



Today, there are more than 800 professed Little Sisters of St. Francis serving the Church. Our fraternity is blessed to have Sr. Agnes Narocho, LSOSF serving as our Spiritual Assistant.



Article submitted by Karen Coulson, OFS

Salomea of Poland

On my recent travels to Poland I attended Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church located in Krakow, Poland. Within St. Francis of Assisi Church is the Chapel of Blessed Salomea where she is entombed. Here is a little history about Blessed Salomea ...

Blessed Salome of Cracow ~ Feast Day – November 18

Salome was a daughter of the royal family of Prince Lescon V, and a sister of Boleslas the Chaste.

Blessed Salome of Cracow was born at Cracow, the capital of Poland, in 1201. At the age of 3, according to the custom of the time, she was betrothed to Prince Colman of Hungary, a brother of St Elizabeth of Thuringia, and was sent to the court of King Andrew II in order to be raised according to the customs of the country.

The little girl proved to be a child of grace and a model to all with whom she associated. When the day of her marriage arrived, both spouses resolved to preserve their virginity. They preserved their vow intact to the end of their lives.

The pious couple vied with each other in their practices of piety and penance. With the consent of her husband, Salome received the habit of the Third Order of St Francis at the hands of her confessor, a Franciscan friar. Following her example, many of the ladies at court renounced worldly pomp and vanity, and the palace took on the appearance of a convent.

Even when her husband became king of Galicia, and Salome, she remained the simple daughter of St. Francis in the Order of Penance.

King Coleman fell in battle against the Tatars in 1225. Salome then resolved to consecrate herself to God, and used her wealth in supporting the poor and in building churches.

In 1240 Blessed Salome of Cracow entered the convent of the Poor Clares at Zawichost. The convent was later removed to the vicinity of Cracow, to protect it against the inroads of the Tatars, and it was known as St Mary of the Stairs. Here Salome continued to live for 28 years, highly respected by her fellow sisters because of her virtue. On several occasions she was elected to the office of abbess.

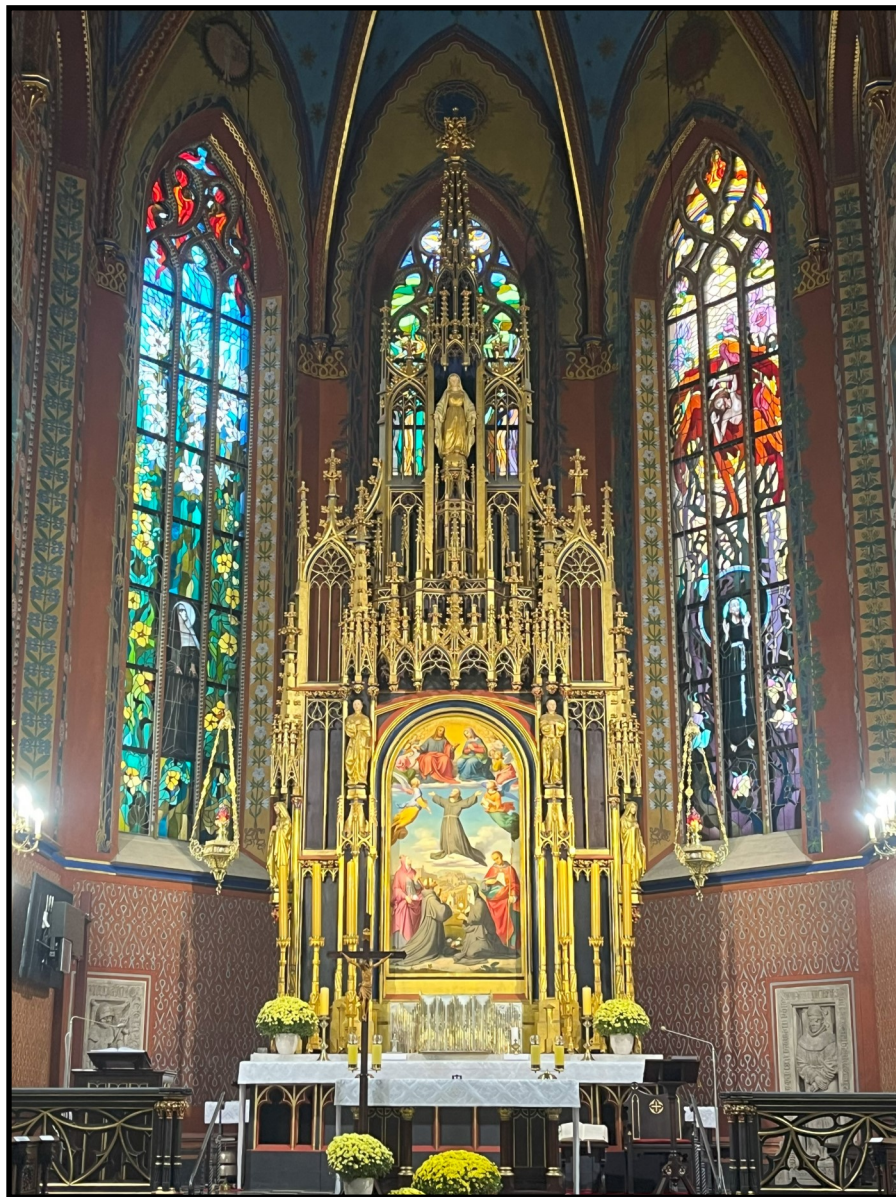
When she was 67 years old, Blessed Salome of Cracow was seized with an illness one day during holy Mass, and she predicted that her death would follow shortly. Admonishing those about her deathbed to practice charity and harmony, and faithfully observe the rule, she died November 17, 1268, favored and fortified in her last hour with a vision of our Lady and the Child Jesus.

A heavenly sign was the fact that her sisters, at the moment of her death, saw a brilliant star rise from her lips and mount to heaven.

When her body was exhumed seven months after burial, it was found incorrupt and giving forth a sweet odor. She was then entombed in the Franciscan Church at Cracow beside her husband, King Colman. Many miracles occurred in testimony of her sanctity, whereupon Pope Clement X beatified her.



Chapel of Blessed Salomea, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Krakow, Poland



She is also depicted in a stained glass window to the left of the main altar.

Am I My Brother's Keeper?



A couple of years ago, while driving my granddaughters home from Mass, I started the usual conversation: "What did you learn in Children's Faith Formation today?" The answer came back, "The teacher told us the story of Cain and Abel, but we already knew that story." It never hurts to hear it again; it's an important story, I remember telling them. The discourse that followed made me stop and think about it from a child's point of view. At the time the older grandchild was five years old. She asked me, "Why did Cain kill Abel?"

I reiterated what the Bible (and her CFF teacher) said, "Because each of the brothers offered a sacrifice to God and God found favor with Abel's sacrifice but He did not find favor with Cain's, so Cain was very jealous and very angry with Abel, and he hit him with a rock and killed him." The child persisted, "But why did Cain kill him?" I explained that sometimes jealousy and anger can make us do terrible things. The child wasn't buying it. She said, "I don't care how mad I get at my sister, I wouldn't kill her!" Okay, good. But then she said something that has made me think more deeply about the story in the years since this discussion. In her innocent little voice she said, "I don't think Cain meant to kill Abel." I asked her to explain her thinking, and she replied, "He was mad, and he hit him with a rock, but I don't think he meant to kill him. I don't think he knew that hitting Cain would make him die." She had a point. How would Cain know that hitting Abel with a rock would kill him? Had anyone died before Abel? I sat quietly for a moment and imagined the bewilderment Cain must have felt when Abel did not rise and respond to the attack. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" and Cain replied, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?" And that is where the story becomes more complicated.

Am I my brother's keeper is a question that has transcended time from the earliest days of creation until our present age. Killing one's brother is bad enough, but being unconcerned with what has happened to him is quite another problem with the Cain and Abel story. We do not know whether Abel died immediately or was left there in the field to bleed to death. We know that Abel's blood cried out to God from the ground. The old adage: adding insult to injury is applicable here. That is the point where the understanding of brotherhood comes into question, the point from which our Franciscan spirituality takes root. Do we know where our brothers and sisters are at this moment? Saint Francis called each of his followers brothers, Clare and her followers his sisters. But he did not stop there. He embraced the poor, the lepers, the unwanted in his world as brothers and sisters. He referred to the Sun, Wind, and Fire as brothers. He called the Moon, and Water, and Earth his sisters. Because of Francis' deep faith in God's benevolent Fatherhood, his desire was strengthened to live the Gospel, not only in a radical way but also in total dependence on God's holy will. His example emphasized that we are all connected to one another and all of creation in a fraternal way. Should God approach us and ask, "Where is your brother?" We should be prepared to answer with a fraternal conviction. We should have concern for brothers and sisters of all ethnicities here and across the world who are in danger. We should care that the lives of the unborn are subject to termination. We should be affected by human trafficking. We should show care for all of creation: the poor, the marginalized, the dying, the lonely and of course, nature and the environment. We are not permitted to pick and choose which brothers/sisters we care about, and which are less important. We should maintain an integral role in all the concerns of our brothers and sisters – because if God should suddenly hold us accountable, we should answer, "Yes, I am my brother's keeper!" If, contrary to Cain's actions, we are not actively harming our brothers and sisters, that is good. Being aware of the whereabouts of our brothers and sisters is also good. But Cain's insolent question: Am I my brother's keeper? is a challenge regarding responsibility. God's response was to send us Jesus Christ to show us how to be our brother's keeper. Francis followed Christ's example to the letter. As members of the Franciscan Order, we are being formed to come together as family, and to understand what that truly means: to care for our brothers and sisters in every way that we can.

As modern-day followers of Saint Francis we follow our Constitution regarding Brotherhood in this way: "Our constitution very justly points out that formation is concerned not only with the growth of the individual brother, but with the development of a fraternity of gospel witness. Formation is the development of the brothers and fraternities in such a way that our life may daily become more closely conformable to the holy gospel and to the Franciscan spirit."

Pax e bonum

A Little Franciscan Humor





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 Signup is Saturday, December 9, 2023.**

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

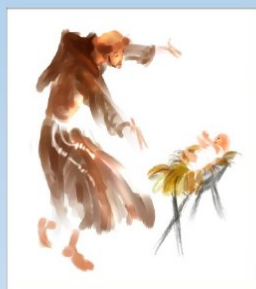
Fr. Charley Miller, OFM will be talking with us about the Franciscan view of Advent and the Incarnation. Just right to bring us to a spirit filled heart for Christmas!

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 or Peg Crews , Minister of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Fraternity 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.

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



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



The Pope's Monthly Intentions



December — For persons with disabilities



We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Upcoming Important Dates

Anniversary of Profession:

Leo Wells —December 1, 1995

Chris Wells —December 1, 2002

Birthdays

Marie Stephan — December 15



Advent Day of Reflection Saturday, December 16, 2023 St. Clare of Assisi Retreat Center, Hampton, VA.



NEXT Fraternity Meeting —January 21, 2024 at 1:15pm (social gathering from 12:30-1:15)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Minister: Peg Crews peg.crews@gmail.com
cjmurphy@usa.com

Vice Minister: Carol Murphy

Secretary: Eileen Murray eamurray3@gmail.com
don948@gmail.com

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

Formation Director: Donna Kendall domenica145@gmail.com

Councilor-at-Large: Barbara Massey barbmarlin@verizon.net, and Cindy Holland 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 and let her know.

FRANCISCAN THIRD ORDER RULES - A COMPARISON OF KEY FEATURES

TOPIC	MEMORIALE PROPOSITI, 1221	SUPRA MONTEM, 1289	RULE OF LEO XIII
DRESS	Dress in humble, undyed cloth, no frills or furs [Ch1.1].	Dress in humble, inexpensive clothes [Ch3].	Avoid extremes of cost and style [Ch2.1].
SOCIAL RELATIONS	Don't go to unseemly parties, shows or dances [Ch1.5].	Don't go to immodest banquets and spectacles. No dancing [Ch6].	Keep away from dances and shows which savor of license [Ch2.2].
ABSTINENCE/FASTING	Abstain from meat except on Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday. Lenten and Easter fasts [Ch2.6; Ch3.8].	Abstain from meat on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday [Ch7].	Be temperate in eating and drinking, and devoutly say grace before and after meals. fast on the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception and on that of St. Francis [Ch2.3/4].
PRAYER	Seven canonical Hours [Ch4.12].	Seven canonical Hours.	Canonical Hours, or the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary; say daily twelve Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glorys [Ch2.6].
SACRAMENTS	Confess three times a year; receive Communion on Christmas, Easter and Pentecost [Ch5.15].	Confess and receive Communion three times a year [Ch6].	Participate in the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist every month [Ch2.5].
ENGAGING IN PEACE	They are not to take up lethal weapons, or bear them about against anybody Ch5.16].	They are not to bear weapons for fighting, except for the defense of the Roman Church, the Christian Faith, and/or also their country [Ch7].	Strive to lead others by good example and promote practices of piety and good works [Ch2.8].
OBSTAIN FROM OATHS	Abstain from all solemn oaths [Ch5.17].	Abstain from all solemn oaths [Ch12].	Never take an oath except when necessary [Ch2.10].
MASS AND MEETINGS	Monthly meeting; attend Mass [Ch6.19].	Hear Mass daily; hold monthly meeting [Ch13].	Daily Mass, monthly meeting [Ch2.11].

TOPIC	MEMORIALE PROPOSITI, 1221	SUPRA MONTEM, 1289	RULE OF LEO XIII
CARE FOR SICK	Care for sick; have a will [Ch7.25].	Visit the sick. Have a will. Re-establish peace with all [Ch9/10/14].	Last will and testament. Visit sick members [Ch2.7/13/14].
MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES	Faithfully accept and execute one's ministry [Ch7.28].	Faithfully carry out duties [Ch15].	Lead others by good example and to promote practices o piety and good works. Contribute to common fund.
ADMITTING NEW MEMBERS	Do not admit a heretic or person in bad repute [Ch7.320].		
CORRECTION OF MEMBERS		Correct the delinquent. Avoid quarrels [Ch16/19].	
CONTRIBUTE TO COMMON FUND			Contribute according to their means to a common fund [Ch2.12].

*Gil Donahue, OFS, JPIC Animator, St. Margaret of Cortona Region
November 12, 2023*