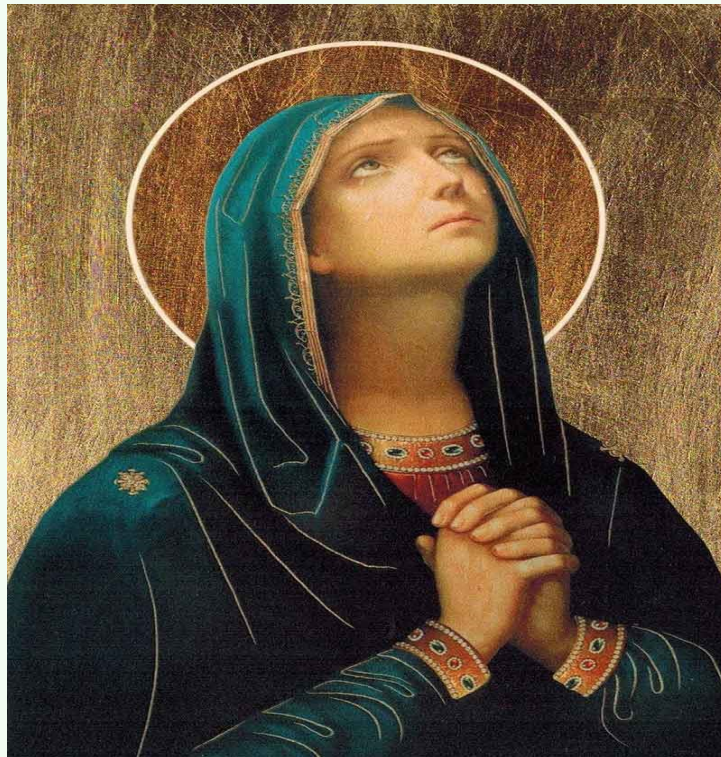


St Mary of The Angels Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
The Angelus
September 17, 2023



Minister: Michael Oliver
Vice-Minister: John DiBenedetto
Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether Formation Director: Carmencita Fiesta
Secretary: Susan Jamison Treasurer: Portia Fiesta
Counselors: Sonia Bernardo, Tom McGrath, Michaele Sylla
The Angelus this Month: Michael Oliver and Tom McGrath

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows





St. Mary of the Angels and Mt. St. Sepulchre Joint Retreat Agenda

Where: Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land located at 1400 Quincy Street NE, Washington, D.C.— St. Francis Room (take the pathway to the right of the main entrance that leads down to the basement level)

When: Sunday, September 17th Schedule:

Noon to 1 p.m. – Opening Prayer and a catered lunch by The Olive Garden

1 to 2:30 p.m. – Screening of The Letter

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – post-film discussion facilitated by Sr. Louise Lears, SC, Creation Care Associate at Franciscan Action Network

3:30 p.m. Closing Prayer

Peace and Good to all!

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote an “encyclical letter” called **Laudato Si'** that encouraged us to see how “everything is connected.” This included the way we treated the Earth, our common home, and was a reflection of how we treat each other. As you will see in the screening of “The Letter”, caring for each other also means caring for the home we share.

In his letter, Pope Francis wanted us to hear four voices who had been under-represented in climate change dialogue. Further, he wanted to give a voice to those living in poverty, from young people, indigenous communities, and from nature.

The film features a climate refugee from Senegal, an indigenous leader in a part of the Brazilian Amazon, a 13 year old climate activist from India and a husband/wife conservationist team from Hawaii.

As you will see in the screening, the film includes a glimpse of this group's visit to Assisi and, ultimately, completion of their journey featuring an audience with Pope Francis. I pray that this viewing and the group discussion afterwards will raise our awareness of these vital issues and help us as individuals to make a difference in our common home.



SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

August, 2023

Hello. My Franciscan companions!

Welcome to my third article in my series on Francis and the Beatitudes. Again, this article is based on the reference, "Brother Fire, Sister Earth" by Adela DiUbaldo Torchia. Today. We will talk about meekness and see how Francis used it to actualize his Order's potential to be children of God.

Other past versions or translations of this Beatitude have used "gentle" or "lowly" in place of "meek". Even though these three words have similar meanings, "gentle" and "lowly" have recently taken on negative connotations. Women of today now no longer see the term as a virtue of their gender. Minority groups and indigenous people find the terms offensive when they are announcing the need to preserve their unique cultural heritage. When one person or group is deemed meek by a more powerful or superior one, they are accused of injustice or victimization. The meekness advocated by Christ in this Beatitude is far from the meekness, gentleness, and lowliness we speak of here. Francis advocated this as well.

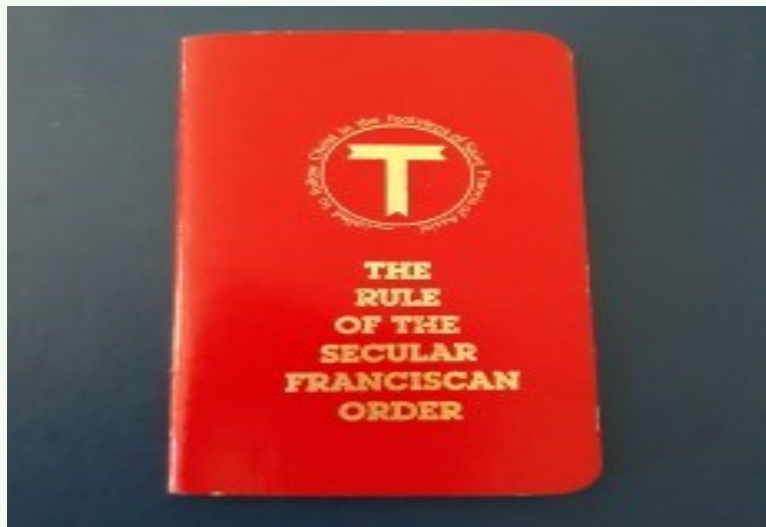
Franciscans take on the acronym, O.F.M to show that they have taken on and preserved the desires of their founder to the letter: the Order of Friars Minor. As we know, Francis wanted his group of friars to be lesser rather than greater and so he took on the name of minors. He wished to start an order which possessed as little as possible. Was Francis naïve or did he closely observe the life of the religious in the church of his time and discovered how easy it was to start of with great intentions in utilizing money and property in service to and in love of God and neighbor only to pad their own pockets and glorify their own status.

Francis took to heart what Jesus said about our being the salt of the earth and the light of the world and that being meek was not a way of being humble. It is a way of actualizing our potential as disciples of the Lord. "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14). Francis looked at being meek as seeking the glory of God rather than our own by using the talents and gifts God Himself has given us.

Next month, we shall talk about the next Beatitude which tells us what Francis did about those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

May the Lord be with you!

Mike



Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

Chapter 2 Article 4

4. The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people . Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly. Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.

Questions to ponder— How often do you do a careful reading of the bible? What are some examples of how you bring gospel to life?

One answer— Reading and reflecting on the gospel on a daily basis is important for all of us. We not only gain knowledge of God's Word but also, through prayerful reflection, find nuggets and sign posts for special areas of focus during our hectic days. A good way to get started is by focusing on the readings in the daily Mass.

Note: we will be highlighting one article of the Rule each month

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Dale Eppig—September 8th

September Professions
Connie Barrera—9/14/2002
Michael Huether—9/21/1998
Lilian Soriano—9/14/2002

Beginning Balance	—————	\$2,749.52
Contributions	—————	\$ 382.00
Expenses	—————	\$ 629.75
Ending Balance	—————	\$2,496.38

Expenses include: Spiritual Assistant,
Apostolates, Ukraine National Fraternity,
Postage and Angelus

Our monthly Mass for our Living and Deceased Fraternity Members will be celebrated on September 17th, at Our Lady of Grace Church at 11 AM.



A friendly reminder

If health or a special family obligation hinders you from attending our gathering, please contact our Vice Minister, John Di Benedetto, and let him know.

301-873-7883

Apostolates Corner

Prayer Ministry

Lead:

Genie Dutton

240-446-4670 genie4310@gmail.com

Members:

Sonia Bernardo

301-938-8342 soniabernardo70@gmail.com

Mary Badjo

240-994-4209 mftchida@yahoo.com

Ingrid Roberts

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Bette O'Connor

410-499-5504 oconnorbette46@gmail.com

Lilian Soriano

240-205-5995 lilianisoriano@yahoo.com



Genie and any, or all, team members can be contacted by phone, text or email. If desired, your prayer requests will be shared with the entire Fraternity. Going forward, we will feature prayer requests in the Angelus.

In addition, your prayer needs can be shared in the daily Zoom prayer gathering at 3 p.m. Finally, feel free to submit names to the group each month for prayer support.

Formation Update

Initial formation: *The Franciscan Journey*

Chapter 2- Discernment led by Carmencita

The call to enter the SFO is given by the Holy Spirit. It's a call (vocation) to live in the spirit of St Francis and according to the Rules, Statutes and Constitution of the SFO. Discernment is a process to determine if you have a vocation to the SFO.

Chapter 5- Lay Spirituality led by Tom McGrath

As Secular Franciscans, we bring a contemplative prayerfulness that keeps them in touch with the Trinity, to family life, spousal relationships and human rights.

Ongoing Formation: *What it takes to be an OFS Franciscan*

Chapter 1—Relationships led by Michaelle Sylla

It is all about daily conversion, by observing the OFS Rule and living the Gospel life; going from Life to Gospel and Gospel to Life. It is about our relation with God who loves us and our relation with our brothers and sisters, and assisting them in their need.

MORNING PRAYER

August 19, 2023

Father in Heaven, the Creator of all things & the Author of love. Thank You for all the blessings & for loving me unconditionally. Because of Your love & grace, I made it this far. Thank You for showing Your love for me when I couldn't love myself. Help me to love my enemies & treasure those who truly loves me. May this day fill with love, forgiveness, peace & happiness. Lord, I love You & help me to stay in love with You every day. In Jesus Name, Amen!



Peace and prayers, Carmencita, Portia, Tom, Michaelle and Mike