



September 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 pm. - Sunday, September 10, 2023**

- We are collecting white socks for the homeless.
- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – Jan will speak on the four basic aspects of the Franciscan Charism were the Crib, the Cross, the Cup and Creation.
- *Fellowship*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – verse for the Canticle of Mary and Concluding Prayer are from the Proper of Seasons, the psalms, reading, and intercessions are from the Psalter, Week III, Sunday, Evening Prayer II. Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

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

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbII4T20rZz09>

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

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

It has been a busy month for me. We had a family gathering on the 19th to celebrate late summer birthdays, several hours of organized chaos and grandkids. The following Monday I had my hip replaced. I have received much support and prayers. Thank you.

It has been gratifying to hear occasional remarks from Randy about little tasks I had been doing unseen for years that suddenly

were waiting for him to do. It reminded me of his comment picking our daughter and myself from the airport after a cruise over ten years ago, "The dishwasher doesn't run itself." I don't know, maybe some do now, but we don't invest in that kind of technology. This got me thinking about the quiet service the drivers in our fraternity do. Offering rides to fraternity meetings, other kinds of meetings, and church are all quiet service. Not only are you providing

transportation services, but you are spending time with an individual. This may not be someone you choose as a BFF, but, over time, you get to know them and can bring their concerns to prayer. If you are on the receiving end, like me, have you expressed thanks or better yet prayed for their intentions?

Excuse what seems a non sequitur. I am reading Villains of the Early Church; think of Judas, Pontius Pilate, Nero... The book details how these villains enriched Christianity. They had a role to play and in playing it they stretched our vision and clarified things as we rejected their ideas. Is there someone on the fringe of your life who can help you be a better Franciscan?

Pax et Bonum,  
Andrea

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### Prayer Intentions

- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- *Virginia Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS*
- Continued healing for Andrea's hip.
- *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, having surgery in two weeks 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 repose of the soul of Liz Shaeffer's uncle,*

*Wayne Strawser, who recently passed.*

- 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 add safe & healthy travel for Bill & Ann Wester to the Czech Republic.*
- For John Jr. & Kathy Cassidy as they move to Oakton.

### Professions

9/11/2016

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Andrea Bender    | Irenaeus        |
| Thomas Bender    | Thomas More     |
| Sita Chakrawarti | Clare           |
| Patricia Riggles | Pope John XXIII |

### Birthdays of the Month

None!

### Necrology

James R Dimond (Min.) – September 23, 2015  
Rev. Cornelius O'Brien – September 7, 2019

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### Secretary's Notes

We are planning an Open House for our October Meeting. Please think about people you know in your parish, work etc. whom you believe to have a vocation to the Secular Franciscans.

The National Fraternity is trying to control costs and one way they are attempting to that is to only mail the TAU-USA National Newsletter to those who want it in paper form. If you are receiving the TAU in the mail and would be content to see it only in electronic form, please let me know via email by September 12, 2023. Thank you.

Bernadette extends an invitation to our

Fraternity to attend an event at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish on September 29, 2023, to honor Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM as he receives the Pax Christi Annual Peace Award for 2023. More information will follow.

Stigmata of St. Francis. However, that feast is celebrated on September 17<sup>th</sup> and to get a jump on things, I included an excerpt from Thomas Celano, OFM's Life of Saint Francis concerning the stigmata on p. 6.

Also, see the announcement below about a film on Pope Francis and Laudato Si this Sunday morning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in D.C., and a request from NAFRA requesting donations for hurricane relief in Florida and fire relief in Maui.

Lastly, Transitus is coming up on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have journeyed in the past up to the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. Please be on the lookout for emails with time and ride information and please consider helping to carpool up.

We have been progressing through a series of 800-year Franciscan anniversaries. This year we are remembering Greccio and the Rule. In 2024, we celebrate the anniversary of the

Peace and Good,  
Randy

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace to you.

We are all well aware of the recent tragedies in Florida and Maui. We would like to encourage all of our members, through our regions, local fraternities, or individually, to donate directly to Catholic Charities USA to help those who have been affected. Please earmark donations for Florida Hurricane relief and Maui fire recovery.

We also ask that you keep our members and their families in your prayers.

Thank you to Willie Guadalupe, OFS, for calling our attention to the appeal below.

Peace and blessings,  
Diane  
(For the NEC)

*Diane F. Menditto, OFS*  
*Vice Minister, National Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order USA*  
*[Listen - Discern - Go Forth National Theme 2022-2025](#)*

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**From Pope Francis' General Audience on August 30, 2023**

The day after tomorrow, 1 September, we will celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, inaugurating the Season of Creation, which will last until 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. On that date I plan to publish an Exhortation, a second *Laudato Si'*. Let us join our Christian brothers and sisters in the commitment to care for Creation as a sacred gift from the Creator. It is necessary to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, striving to put an end to the senseless war on our common home, which is a terrible world war. I urge all of you to work and pray for it to abound with life once again.

In honor of this period of prayer requested by our Holy Father, Sacred Heart Parish in Washington, DC is hosting a video presentation:

**YouTube Originals**  
**THE LETTER**  
 A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH

**VEN A VER LA PELÍCULA EN ESPAÑOL**  
 El sábado, 9 de septiembre, después de la misa de las 18:00  
 Gavan Center

THELETTERFILM.ORG

**COME WATCH THE MOVIE IN ENGLISH:**  
 Sunday, Sept. 10  
 in the Gavan Center  
 after the 9am Mass

PART OF SACRED HEART'S CELEBRATION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S 2023 SEASON OF CREATION

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 3211 Sacred Heart Way NW, Washington, DC 20010

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**Saints of the Month**

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-01-2023.pdf>

September 1

St. Beatrice of Silva, Founder, Conceptionist Poor Clares (c. 1424-August 9, 1492)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beatrice\\_of\\_Silva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beatrice_of_Silva)

September 2

Bls. Apollinaris of Posat, John Francis Burté, Severin Girault, Priests and companions, First and Third Orders, Martyrs of Carmes (d. 1792)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/martyrs-de-carmes.html>

September 4

St. Rose of Viterbo, Third Order Secular (c. 1233-March 6, 1251)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-rose-of-viterbo.html>

September 6

Bl. Liberatus of Lauro, Priest, First Order (d. 1260)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-liberatus-of-lauro.html>

September 7

Bl. Gentle of Matelica, Priest, First Order, martyr (d. September 5, 1340)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gentle-of-matelica.html>

September 8

Bl. John Tomachi and Sons, Third Order Secular, Martyrs (d. September 8, 1628)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-ioannes-tomachi/>

September 9

Bl. Seraphina Sforza, Poor Clare Nun (1434-September 8, 1478)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-seraphina-sforza.html>

September 10

Bl. Lucy de Freitas, Third Order Secular, martyr (d. 1622)

<https://joyfulspirit139.blogspot.com/2014/11/bl-lucy-de-freitas.html>

September 11

Bl. Bonaventure of Barcelona, Friar, Founder Convent of St. Bonaventure (d. 1684)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-bonaventure-of-barcelona/>

September 13

First Order, Third Order Regular and Secular Franciscans, Martyrs of Japan (d. 1617-1628)

<http://franciscanchapelcentertokyo.org/history-of-franciscan-friars-in-japan/>

**September 17**

**Feast of the Stigmata of our Holy Father Francis**

<https://catholicism.org/the-stigmata-of-saint-francis-of-assisi-1224.html>

St. Zygmunt Szczesny Felinski, OFS, Archbishop of Warsaw and Founder, Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary (Nov. 1, 1822-Sept. 17, 1895)

[https://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/saints/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20020818\\_felinski\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20020818_felinski_en.html)

September 18

St. Joseph of Cupertino, Priest, Order of Friars Minor Conventual

(June 17, 1603-September 18, 1663)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-joseph-of-cupertino.html>

September 20

St. Francis Mary of Camporosso, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin

(December 27, 1804-September 17, 1866)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/francis-mary-of-camporosso.html>

September 21

Bl. Elizabeth Amodei, Third Order Secular, (1475-February 4, 1498)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-elizabeth-amodei.html>

September 22

St. Ignatius of Santhia, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (June 1686-September 22, 1770)

[http://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20020519\\_ignazio\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns_lit_doc_20020519_ignazio_en.html)



September 23

Finding the Body of St. Clare

<http://www.catholicapologetics.info/library/gallery/incorrupt/incorrupt.htm#-Clare>

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin  
(May 25, 1887-September 23, 1968)

<http://padrepiodevotions.org/a-short-biography/>

September 24

St. Pacificus of Severino, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (March 1, 1653-September 24, 1721)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-pacific.html>

September 26

St. Elzéar of Sabran (1285-September 27, 1323)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elzear\\_of\\_Sabran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elzear_of_Sabran)

Bl. Delphina of Glandèves (1284-November 1358)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delphine\\_of\\_Glandeves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delphine_of_Glandeves)

Bl. Aurelio of Vinalesa and Companions, Priest and Martyrs of Valencia (d. 1936)

<https://saintscatholic.blogspot.com/2014/03/blessed-aurelio-of-vinalesa-presbyter.html>

Bl. Lucy of Caltagirone, Third Order Regular (d. c.1400)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-lucy-of-caltagirone.html>

September 28

Bl. Bernadine of Feltre, Order of Friars Minor, missionary (1439-September 28, 1494)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-bernardin-of-feltre.html>

St. John of Dukla, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual (1414-1484)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_of\\_Dukla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Dukla)

September 29

**Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel**

<http://catholicstraightanswers.com/who-is-st-michael-the-archangel/>

September 30

Bl. Charles of Blois, Third Order Secular (1319-September 29, 1364)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-charles-of-blois.html>

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)

Husband and Wife,  
Secular Franciscans



He was not afraid that he would yield to the enemy  
since he had long struggled beyond human strength  
not even to give into himself.  
He was so filled with fire that,  
even if in preceding ages  
there had been someone with a purpose equal to his,  
no one has been found whose desire was greater than his.  
He found it easier to do what is perfect  
Than to talk about it;  
So he was constantly active  
In showing his zeal and dedication in deeds, not in words,  
because words do not do what is good,  
they only point to it.  
Thus he remained undisturbed and happy,  
singing *songs of joy in his heart* to himself and to God. <sup>Eph 5:19</sup>  
For this reason he was found worthy of a greater revelation,  
since he rejoiced over a small one;  
*faithful in a small thing,* <sup>Lk 19:17</sup>  
*he was placed over greater ones.* <sup>Mt 25:21</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Saint, Vol. 1 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. 263-265.

### Chapter III THE VISION OF A MAN HAVING THE IMAGE OF A CRUCIFIED SERAPH

<sup>94</sup> While he was staying in that hermitage called La Verna, after the place where it is located, two years prior to the time that he returned his soul to heaven, he saw *in the vision of God* a man, (Ez 1:1, 8:1) *having six wings like a Seraph, standing over him, arms extended and feet joined*, affixed to a cross. *Two of his wings were raised up, two were stretched out over his head as if for flight*, and *two covered his whole body*. (Is 6:2) When the blessed servant of the Most High saw these things, he was filled with the greatest awe, but could not decide what this vision meant for him. Moreover, he greatly rejoiced and was much delighted by the kind and gracious look that he saw the Seraph gave him. The Seraph's beauty was beyond comprehension, but the fact that the Seraph was fixed to the cross and the bitter suffering of that passion thoroughly frightened him. Consequently, he got up both sad and happy as joy and sorrow took their turns in his heart. Concerned over the matter, he kept thinking about what this vision could mean and his *spirit was anxious* to discern a sensible meaning from the vision. (Ps 143:4 [Vulgate, Ps 142:4]) While he was unable to perceive anything clearly understandable from the vision, its newness very much pressed upon his heart. Signs of the nails began to appear on his hands and feet, just as he had seen them a little while earlier on the crucified man hovering over him.

<sup>95</sup> His hands and feet seemed to be pierced through the middle by nails, with the heads of the nails appearing on the inner part of his hands and on the upper part of his feet, and their points protruding on opposite sides. Those marks on the inside of his hands were round, but rather oblong on the outside; and small pieces of flesh were visible like the points of nails, bent over and flattened, extending beyond the flesh around them. On his feet, the marks of nails were stamped in the same way and raised above the surrounding flesh. His right side was marked with an oblong scar, as if pierced with a lance, and this often dripped blood, so that his tunic and undergarments were frequently stained with his holy blood.

Sadly, only a few merited seeing the sacred wound in his side during the life of the crucified servant of the crucified Lord. Elias was fortunate and

did merit somehow to see the wound in his side. Rufino was just as lucky: *he touched it with his own hands*. (1 Jn 1:1) For one time, when the same brother Rufino put his hand onto the holy man's chest to rub him, his hand slipped, as often happens, and it chanced that he touched the precious scar in his right side. As soon as he had touched it, the holy one of God felt great pain and pushed Rufino's hand away, *crying out for the Lord to spare him*. (Gn 19:16)

He hid those marks carefully from strangers, and concealed them cautiously from people close to him, so that even the brothers at his side and his most devoted followers for a long time did not know about them.

Although the servant and friend of the Most High saw himself adorned with such magnificent pearls, like *precious stones*, (2 Chr 9:9) and marvelously *decorated beyond the glory and honor of all others*, (Sir 3:19; Ps 8:6) still his heart did not grow vain. *He did not seek* to use this to *make himself appealing* to anyone in a desire for vainglory. (Gal 1:10) Rather in every way possible he tried to hide these marks, so that human favor would not *rob him* of the grace *given* him. (Mt 6:18-19)

<sup>96</sup> He would never or rarely reveal his great secret to anyone. He feared that his special friends would reveal it to show their intimacy with him, as friends often do, and he would then lose some of the grace given to him. He always carried in his heart and often had on his lips the saying of the prophet: *"I have hidden your words in my heart to avoid any sin against You."* (Ps 119:11 [Vulgate, Ps 118:11]) Whenever some people of the world approached him and he did not wish to speak with them, he would give this sign to the brothers and sons staying with him: if he recited the verse mentioned above, immediately they would dismiss politely those who had gathered to see him. He had learned through experience that one cannot be a spiritual person unless one's secrets are deeper and more numerous than *what can be seen on the face* and by their appearance can be judged in different ways by different people. (2 Cor 10:7) For he had met some people who agreed with him outwardly but inwardly disagreed, applauding him to his face but laughing behind his back. These brought *judgment upon themselves* and made honest people seem somewhat suspect to him. (1 Cor 11:29)