

St Mary of The Angels Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
The Angelus
November 19, 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

November is dedicated as the Month of the Holy Souls



Rosary for the Holy Souls



November Gathering Agenda

Opening Prayers - Prayer for the Pastoral or Fraternal Visit -page 50 in the Ritual book

Business

- **Essential Documents order update**
- **Christmas Gathering Committee update**
- **Welcoming Prayer exercise feedback**

Formation

- **Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming—Page 9 of the Ritual book**
- **Do Secular Franciscans Wear a Habit? - Carmencita and Michaelle**
- **Sharing your vocation—Video and discussion—Michael**

Food and Fellowship

Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer

Closing Prayers - Page 36 in the Ritual book

Peace and All Good!

November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. This is a time when we remember and pray for the souls of the faithful departed who are undergoing purification before entering heaven. The month is also associated with our Founder, St. Francis, as November marks the anniversary of the dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

We pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory in many ways. One of the most popular ways is to pray the Novena to the Holy Souls, a nine-day prayer that is said for the benefit of the souls in Purgatory.

Also appropriate is to offer up our Holy Communions for the souls in Purgatory. We can also have Masses said for our departed loved ones, especially on the anniversary of their death.

Praying The Way Of The Cross for Souls in Purgatory and praying the special Holy Souls Rosary are also effective ways to pray for them

Here's an example of a prayer we can offer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory:

"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family."



SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE November, 2023

Hello, my fraternity sisters and brothers!

Walking the straight and narrow with purity of heart

Continuing with our discussion of our Father Francis and the Beatitudes, we take a look at: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (Mattheew 5:8). Again, we acknowledge the reference this article is based upon: “Brother Fire, Sister Earth: The Way of Francis of Assisi for a Socially Responsible World” by Adela DiUbaldo Torchia, a doctrinal student of religious studies at the University of Manitoba.

Wanting to see God is the greatest and holiest thing all truly holy men and women wish to seek out. Seeing God and having purity of heart positively go hand in hand. To be pure in heart is, however, related to walking the straight and narrow path. To be pure means to be free of anything that taints, corrupts, or makes it less valuable. To be pure of heart is to focus on one thing: to pursue righteousness, holiness, or God Himself directly.

Being a parent is a role God partakes of when we call him our Father, a role He approves of as in the Blessed Trinity. This, however, can be a compromise to purity of heart. For instance, as parents, we hopefully love our children with such loyalty, but we should not stand before God and claim by it to have no other real loves at the center of our hearts. We also love our spouses, friends, or our work with great fervour but, of course, not in the same way as God. So do we, as Franciscans, love our Father Francis in the same way: a Saint who put himself physically through a miserable life, unattached to others and possessions.

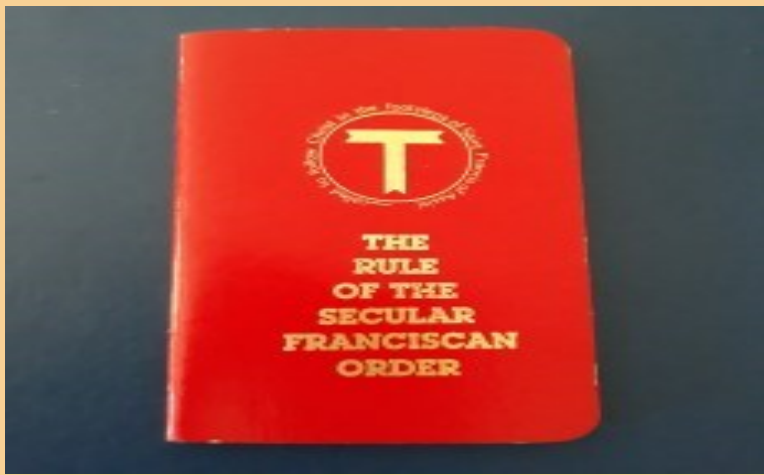
Francis was burning with the desire to see God because he knew that Jesus had made it clear that purity of heart was necessary to see God. Like the parable of the Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 12: 45-46), Francis was willing to throw off all his past preoccupations and pleasures to totally open himself up to the beatific vision of God. Seeing God was his pearl of incomparable price.

So, does this mean that our own Franciscan lives with its loves and loyalties, is detrimental to our pursuit of our spiritual life? Not at all according to the second commandment: “to love others”, which is closely related to the first: “to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind” (Luke 10;27). Francis’s message here stresses that our love of others should ultimately lead back to God, so that we all may see Him.

Next month, we will discuss our abilities to be peacemakers!

May you, my Franciscan Sisters and Brothers, all have a gracious, blessed, joyous, and fruitful Thanksgiving and the start of the Holy Season of Advent!

Mike



Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

Chapter 2 The Way of Life

Article 6. They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialog of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.

Question: Francis had great love and respect, and showed obedience to the pope, bishops, and priests. As Franciscans, we are called to the same. We may not always agree with them; can you give examples of how these disagreements can be handled in a way that rebuilds the Church, rather than tears it down?

One answer: Conflicts can be handled by doing what we do best - with loving and respectful dialogue. Pope Francis said, "Dialogue is born from an attitude of respect for the other person, from a conviction that the other person has something good to say. It assumes that there is room in the heart for the person's point of view, opinion and proposal."

Note: we will continue to highlight one article of the Rule each month in the Angelus

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jaime Bernardo—November 18th

November Professions

Mary Badjo—11/08/2009
Frank Barletta—11/09/1991
Carmencita Fiesta-11/27/1995
Madonna Goody—11/09/1991
Irma Jean-Baptiste—11/09/2014
Joyce Routh—11/09/1991
Carol Smith—11/08/1987
Marilyn Wall—11/09/2014
Alina Zygmunt—11/09/1991

Beginning Balance	--\$2,063.04
Contributions _____	\$ 365.00
Expenses _____	\$ 262.33
Ending Balance _____	\$2,218.38

Expenses include Spiritual Assistant,
Angelus & Postage, Kitchen supplies

Our monthly Mass for our Living and Deceased Fraternity Members will be celebrated on November 19th, at Our Lady of Grace Church at 11 AM.

A friendly reminder



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:

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Sonia 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. We will be happy to 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 3 -The Catholic Doctrine led by Carmencita

God Is Love— it is our belief as Franciscans that God's Love is what prompted God to send Jesus to earth to be with us. Love is made visible in the humanity of Jesus, the Christ. God's Love finds an expression in the Incarnation. Jesus words and actions offer a model of how to deal with the issues of life and faith.

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

Chapter 3, Why Dialogue?

"Dialogue is the basic foundation of building a constructive relationship".

What is dialogue? It is an exchange of words, ideas between two or more peoples. The goal is to understand the "other". A number of qualities are necessary for a good dialogue so that the goal is not to "winning", but "understanding". Basic to dialogue is the willingness to listen to each other and accept explanations. Patience is also important, showing respect, and not arguing, allow each person to speak.

Secular Franciscans need to relate to one another and not to say anything to isolate us from one another. They also need relationship that allows us to continue the dialogue, and make present the love of Christ to all people.

Thanksgiving

*With all the saints, I give You thanks, O Lord,
my God, my Creator, and Redeemer;*

*For all my ancestors throughout the ages
through whom You gave me life;*

*For all the holy men and women
whose examples inspire me to live a holy life;*

*For the farmers, fishers, workers, and cooks
whose toil brings food to our table;*

*For the good earth, sea, and sky
which You have made
and filled with all good things.*

*Help me, Jesus, to become
a living Eucharist of praise.*

Amen.