



The Little Flower Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Come and be fed...body, mind, soul, and spirit!!

April 13, 2024

Little Flower Fraternity Family,

Christos anesti! Christ is risen!

Alithos anesti! He is risen indeed!

—Traditional Easter greeting and response (Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches)

Our Easter Gospel (John 20:1–9) is St. John's magnificent account of the Resurrection.

Three key lessons follow from the disquieting fact of the Resurrection.

First, there is more to life than this life. Jesus' Resurrection from the dead shows as definitively as possible that God is up to something greater than we had imagined. We don't have to live as though death were our master and as though nihilism were the only coherent point of view. We can begin to see this world as a place of gestation toward something higher, more permanent, more splendid.

Second, tyrants now know their time is up. Remember that the cross was Rome's way of asserting its power and authority. But when Jesus was raised from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit, the first Christians knew that Caesar's days were numbered. The current faculty lounge interpretation of the Resurrection as a subjective only personal experience or a mere symbol is exactly what the tyrants of the world want, for it poses no real threat to them. But, the Church says from its earliest days otherwise.

Third, the path of salvation has been opened to everyone. Jesus went all the way down, journeying into pain, despair, alienation, even godforsakenness, as far as you can go away from the Father. Why? In order to reach all who had wandered from God. In light of the Resurrection, the first Christians came to know that, even as we run as fast as we can away from the Father, we are running into the arms of the Son.

As Bishop Robert Barron writes, "And so let us not domesticate these still-stunning lessons. Rather, let us allow them to unnerve us, change us, and set us on fire."

Let us pray: Risen Lord, You conquered sin and death bringing forth new life for us who believe in You. Give us grace, to never allow our sin of pride to keep us from being open to the glorious and transforming action You desire to do in our lives. Please turn us from our sin that we may turn to You so that we can assist our brethern who struggle with the demands of life to come to faith in you. Jesus I trust in You.

Amen.

Phillip Francis Pucher, OFS
Servant Minister
Little Flower Fraternity OFS

Here is our plan for our April 13, 2024 Fraternity gathering:

PROFESSION OF LINDA HERILLA!!!

**STARTING WITH MASS AT 11 AM
FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT BURKE HALL**



Retreat...Reconnect

Opportunities for spiritual growth and/through community service



Regional Conference for Formators June 21-23, 2024

Washington Retreat House, Washington, DC

*This retreat is geared to reach
formators and council members.

THERE WILL NOT BE A REGIONAL CONFERENCE THIS YEAR IN THE
SUMMER. IN ITS PLACE THE CHAPTER OF MATS IS OPEN
TO ALL FRATERNITY MEMBERS.

Chapter of Mats **SAVE THE DATE**

September 6-8, 2024

<https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-Chapter-of-Mats-Flyer.pdf>

APRIL REFLECTION-

Thank you, Sandy Chabot!

To Linda . . .

What a happiness it is for your brothers and sisters in fraternity to witness your profession! Whether we have seen this ceremony numerous times or only a very few, each of us will be able to reaffirm the choice we made to become Franciscans, however long ago it may have been.

You will speak for all of us when you say three times, "Yes, this is what I want."

We want this identity which unites us more closely with the Church we love. We seek the grace of God in our sacramental lives and in our daily prayer. We take opportunities to serve willingly where we can and as we are able. We strive to live the light of the Gospel in all our circumstances and in every season of our lives. This is what we want . . . To do what is uniquely ours to do as we follow the inspiration of one of the most universally loved of all God's saints.

May the blessings of your profession enrich your heart and soul always. May you live your call with devotion and gratitude. We join you in thanksgiving! St. Francis and our beloved St. Clare welcome you with joy!

NEWS

Inspiration for the month (provided by Dennis)

The Priceless Gift

Do you have a priceless gift
Hidden in your home today?
Is it rubies or diamonds, silver or gold
You are counting on for "coming what may?"
What if your treasure is stolen
Or your body is racked with pain?
All the worldly wealth that you possess
Can't fix what's broken or even regain.
Wealth of the world is not the priceless gift
That can satisfy the inner need of life.
The gift is the peace of God's presence
During the times of pain and strife.

M. Elaine Fowser

An extra article this month from Donna! She brings us news of the first Secular Franciscans, whose feast day we remember on the 28th! Enjoy!!

Who Were Luchedio and Buonadonna?

Luchedio Modestini was a man who made his home in Poggibonsi, Italy and was a contemporary of St. Francis of Assisi. As a young [man](#) he was engrossed in worldly interests and engaged in business as a merchant and money lender. He married Buonadonna from an affluent family of Borgo Marturi. She shared Luchedio's desire of wealth and power. Neither exhibited compassion for those who were less fortunate.

Unexpectedly, Luchedio experienced a holy conversion when, touched by grace, he endeavored to seek God's kingdom. Intrigued by the gospel values of St. Francis of Assisi, whom he probably met in 1221, he embraced a penitential state of life, devoting himself to intense prayer, fasting, and to the care of the poor. His wife had not had such a conversion and lacked support for her husband's new ideals.

His generosity to the poor became his driving mission. One day the couple had no bread in their home, yet a poor man came to the door begging for food. Luchedio asked his wife to go see if there was something that they could provide to him. His wife lost her temper and scolded him out of concern that they themselves would go hungry. Luchedio asked her again to go look in the pantry which she did. When she opened the door of the pantry it was filled with all the best sorts of bread. From that moment Buonadonna tried to outdo her husband in performing good works.

At this time Saint Francis visited the region of Tuscany where they lived. Following his sermon on penance, many people were inspired to leave their lives and families in order to enter the friary. Francis responded by asking them instead to persevere in their secular vocations. A special Rule of Life was written to guide men and women in serving God perfectly in the world.

Today Luchedio and Buonadonna are regarded as the first Secular Franciscans.

Luchedio and Buonadonna's example helps us to remember how the Franciscan way of life emerges from the sincere conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our penitential

lives as followers of St. Francis set us free from selfish attachment to material possessions. This ongoing conversion enables us to serve our brothers and sisters – especially the poor and suffering – sharing generously with them our gifts.

The church celebrates the feast day of Blessed Luchesio and Buonadonna on April 28th.

ADORATION OPPORTUNITY

Our Lady of Victory has Mass followed by Adoration Mon.-Thurs. at 8 AM,
Communion service followed by Adoration on Fridays at 8AM
Adoration and confession at 6 PM on Tuesday, followed by Mass at 7

PRAYER REQUESTS

*In order to protect the privacy of our Sisters and Brothers,
we are only listing the names of those who have asked for/or are in need of our prayers.*

Mike Huether BillGross Kathleen Hale Jim Davis and family

Tekla and family (Linda's niece) Stas and Cass Chrazanowski Fay Trotta

**Helen and John Tuminello Kathleen Hale Bill and Patty Prosser*

Jean Foor Cathy, Ron, and Darlene Polkowski and family

**Helen had a stroke post operatively, so please especially pray for her intentions.*

Pope's intention for April

The Role of Women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

Birthday Celebrants

Phil Pucher April 1

Maria Mercaldo April 22

Lisa Gough April 27

Fr. Bart April 28

Profession Anniversaries:

John O'Hara 4/20/1986

Barbara Bruno 4/22/2001

Maria Mercaldo 4/22/2012

Philip Pucher 4/27/2003

Deceased Member Anniversaries: None

Treasurer's Report: The March treasurer report is deferred for the present time. It will be included with the April report in the newsletter for May. However, please continue to make your monthly contributions as you usually do, sending checks to Phil at this point. We are making arrangements to have a new treasurer for the fraternity as soon as possible. Thanks for your understanding.

Please make ALL checks – Common fund as well as monthly charity, payable to: LITTLE FLOWER FRATERNITY

Also, please keep our contact information in a place with your Will and/or final wishes so that your loved ones can notify us at the appropriate time.

Mail checks to

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Little Flower Fraternity Council

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