



The Franciscan Sun- Herald

St. John the Beloved Apostle Fraternity
Third Order of Saint Francis - Secular
April 2024

Gathering Place:
Basilica of St. Mary, Catholic
Church & Lyceum
313 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA
Gathering Date: April 13,
2024, at the Lyceum.



Minister's Corner:

Brothers and Sisters in Saint Francis and Saint Clare,

This month we have our Fraternity election, so we need as many members present as possible so that we have a quorum for the elections. The presider for the elections will be our Regional Minister, Bob Longo, and will be running most of the meeting. He will be there at 9:00, so please come directly to the Lyceum after the 8:30 Mass at the Basilica.

Later this month we will serve at Christ House, and we will continue our formation using "Clothed with Gladness," at our May Fraternal gathering. On April 20th, all the Fraternity Ministers from across the Region will meet to elect a new Regional Council. Please keep both these elections in your prayers asking God to give us good servant leaders and to guide us to fulfill his Holy will in the coming years.

I encourage everyone to attend the September 6 – 8, Chapter of Mats Retreat, where we will develop with guidance from the Holy Spirit how we are to work for His Kingdom through our Franciscan vocations.

The Rule of the OFS:

Article 23

Requests for admission to the Secular Franciscan Order must be presented to the local fraternity, whose council decides upon the acceptance of new brothers and sisters.

Admission into the order is gradually attained through a time of initiation, a period of formation of at least one year, and profession of the rule. The entire community is engaged in this process of growth by its own manner of living. The age of profession and the distinctive Franciscan sign are regulated by the statutes.

Profession by its nature is a permanent commitment.

Member who find themselves in particular difficulties should discuss their problems with the council in fraternal dialogue.

Withdrawal or permanent dismissal from the Order, if necessary, is an act of the fraternity council according to the norm of the constitutions.

**Fraternity Council
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Because of the importance of the Chapter of Mats, each person should register, if possible before April 30th, so they can receive the discount. This will also allow you to share a room with someone, reducing the cost for the retreat. Also, if any member has difficulty paying for the retreat, please let me know so that the Fraternity and perhaps the Region can assist with the cost of attending the retreat. The Regional planning committee developed a prayer, which I have attached to the email with this Newsletter, for your convenience. Please pray this prayer daily for the success of the Chapter of Mats, our Region and the Order. I look forward to seeing you all next Saturday.

May God Bless you and your families.

Pax et Bonum.
Tom White, OFS

April 2024:
Article Twenty-Three of the Rule of Life

Article Twenty-three of the Rule of Life emphasizes the importance of initial formation, which leads to a permanent profession. The Holy Spirit is the true formator, and the period of initial formation is a time of revelation and discernment. Revelation because the Spirit will reveal to the Candidate all that they need to know to discern whether they are truly called to serve God as a Secular Franciscan. For each person, this formation experience will be different, but each member of the Fraternity contributes to this process, so that the Candidate can experience what the Holy Spirit chooses to reveal through them.

In this way, the Candidate grows in knowledge and wisdom and in acceptance of the will of God, while becoming aware of the charity and love within the Fraternity. When ready, the Candidate then willing

expresses their desire to make their profession in a joyful way, rather than as a burden. As members of the Fraternity is our responsibility to be loving and charitable with each Candidate and humbly allow the Spirit to work through the members so the Candidates can come to know what God desires for them.

If some do not make the right decision or troubles, like weeds, grow up to separate members from the Fraternity, then this article provides for withdrawal or permanent dismissal for the Order, but these occasions should be the exception and not the norm. May God bless you and give you his peace.

Pax et Bonum,
Tom White, OFS

Fraternity Focus:

April Program:
8:30 Morning Mass

9:00– Until complete - Elections

Future Events:

Christ House Apostolate:

Our next Apostolate to Christ House will be on April 20, 2024. More information will be provided at the April Gathering. Christ House is located at 131 S. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Chapter of Mats:

The Regional Chapter of Mats will be held 6-9 September 2024 at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD. Deposit of \$150 as soon as possible. Total cost - up to \$265 depending on desired accommodation. Housing is on a first come-first serve basis. Additional Information is in the email and flyer that was already sent via email. If you need them sent again, please contact Tom

White at (703) 307-2378,
thomaswhyteofs@gmail.com.

Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group:

Meets at 2:30 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of every month. Now in person at Blessed Sacrament Church, virtual, please call or email Elaine Drapeau at 571-215-6410, [edrapeau3@gmail.com](mailto:edrrapeau3@gmail.com)

Weekly Online Prayer Time Group:

Meets online on Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:00 PM to pray for all those who need our prayers. Please contact Rita at ritaandscott@hotmail.com for more information.

Pro-Life Information and Events:

Please contact our Pro-Life Counselor, Geneva Park at jim.geneva@cox.com for more information.

Pro-Life Rosary:

There is a Pro-Life gathering of people to testify to life every Saturday morning from 8:00 -12:00 outside the new abortion Clinic location at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA. They pray the Rosary at 10:00. Please come and support this worthy cause, even if only for a few minutes. Every minute counts. The Knights of Columbus provide coffee and donuts.

Bulletin Board

Our Family:

Recalling the words of St. Francis regarding the sick:

I beg all my sick brothers that they do not become angry in their infirmities or disturbed either against God or against their brothers....

Let them give thanks in all things so that they may desire to be as God wants them to be.

And Let Us Pray:

For the Healing of:

Camilla; Karen Riedl; Stephen and Karen Connair; Ben and Sarah Lewis; Claudia's sister, Pamela Voetberg, Laine Ritter; Michelle Tringhese; Scott Beard; Fr. Mike Hann; Patricia Lutz Moran; John Schup; Gavin Fortson; Stevie Rinaldi; Francis Piscitelli; Somali Karimi; Sarine Kik; Mark Bowl; Jan Parker; Ray Engelking; Fred West III and family; Angela Carroll; Steve Hazel; Vince Cornell and his family; Shirley Kalich; Joe Mainey and his family; Theresa Matava; In Suk and Steve Mullins; Elaine Drapeau; Olivia and Kate Horter; Scott Graham and his family; Richie, Audra, and Abby; Julianna; Nicole and Sam Hosterman; Irene Theriault's nephew – Cole; Patty Frease; Peg Crews; Stephen Shields; John and Un Cha Antal; Stephen and Donna Piscitelli; Jan Floom; John and Sara Dina; Mike Lee; Anne Marie Pierce; Assefa Baraki; Mary Pat with lung cancer; Anna Therese for healing of seizures, Isabella Mitura with cancer; Elaine and Mickey Burich; Judy Heard; Anne Marie Hohman; Ok Young Brem; Sadie Martins; Bob Miller; Cindi Murphy; Ted Larsen; Marilyn McGarrity and for all our families and friends who need God's healing. May God have mercy on all the sick and injured, especially those who are dying.

In gratitude for God's healing and gifts:

Much like the ten lepers cured by Jesus in Luke 17: 11-18, we spend most of our time praying for our own and other's needs, and less time giving thanks to God for all he does for us. Let us be like the leper who returned to Jesus, praising God for all He has done.

We give thanks to God for all he has done for us and our families, especially for the healing of Michelle Beaudry Voetberg, Lorraine, Luna Violet, the four year anniversary of Stephen Connair's successful

transplant, for Sadie Martin's healing and recovery, for Scott Graham's successful operation, for God sending Margie and everyone else to our Fraternity, for the life of our Fraternity, our faith and prayer life, for the appreciation for the life you have given us, and the joy of the eternal life which will come to all of us when our race is finished, for all those God sends our way who enlighten us and raise us to greater heights, even if only for a short time, for all the good things we see average people do, and for all the immeasurable things God does for us, which we cannot hope to count or keep track of.

For all those who are discerning their vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order:

Kathleen, Barbara, Connor, Tejas, Carlos, Craig, Tom, Chris, Andy, Michael, Mark, Magdalena, Janice, Darcie, Felix, Amy, Simona, Annabelle, and all those the Holy Spirit has called. May the Holy Spirit guide them where they should be and may He continue to call new members to our fraternity.

For the Repose of the Souls who have preceded us into eternal life:

Cathy Williams, OFS; Br. John-Sebastian Laird-Hammond, OFM; Br. Ed Coughlin; Peg McGrath Ward; Lorre Bracey; David Robertson; Ramon Carag; Michael Feldman; George Webb; Alfie Evans; Joan Hartley; Donald Wagner; Naed Smith; Judy Ryerse; William Martin; Susan Encroft; Vicki Santora; Carlin; Jeanie McLees; Fr. Lester Bach; Bolton Gregory; Joseph Gregory; Samphon Chea; Sovanny Saray, OFS; Ellen DeKava; Art Scarano, OFS; Suzie Kermic; Laura Cornell; Doris; Mark Martin; Annie Lapinski; Tim Gray; Fata Hand; Rob Brem; Dotti Tamai; Wilma Connair; Sarah Turner; Father Joe Lehman; Marv Floom, Mary Liepold, Pope Benedict XVI, Father Jerome Daley; Mary Lou Coffman; Tony Gray; Lee

Murphy; Cheryl Harper; Arthur Pulket; James Hardy; Joe Messina; Rees Evans; Tracy Willard; Josef Horter, Loretta Jenkins, and all the Souls in Purgatory.

Special Intentions:

For our Holy Father and all the leaders of the Church that they may faithfully adhere to Christ's teachings.

For religious vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, for the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman, and for religious freedom.

For vocations to our own Fraternity, that the Holy Spirit might inspire people to seek a closer communion with Christ and his Church through the way of Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

For the sanctity of all our priests, religious, and lay people.

For those being persecuted throughout the world for their faith.

For our veterans, military, doctors, nurses, medical professionals and first responders.

For all those suffering from COVID-19, that God may heal them and give them peace.

For all those who mourn the loss of loved ones, that their sadness might be turned into joy.

For all those struggling with addictions.

For all victims of sex abuse worldwide especially victims within the Church.

For an end to abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, and assisted suicide in this country and throughout the world.

For peace in the world, in our hearts, and in our homes.

For all those affected by natural disasters and forest fires, and for all those providing disaster relief and their families.

For our leaders, that the Holy Spirit guides them to make morally faithful decisions.

For all our political candidates and leaders, that they would protect and respect the dignity of each person, by protecting the right to life, from conception to natural death.

For our Nation as it goes through these turbulent times, and that it might not lose its way.

For our Fraternity members and their families, and for all our intentions held close to our hearts.

Our Fraternity:

Profession Anniversaries:

Marcia Campbell – April 9, 1994

Ann Corro – April 25, 1982

Fraternity Birthdays:

Marcia Campbell – April 30th

In Memoriam: May the souls of all our dear sisters and brothers, especially

Eileen Conoboy – April 3, 2000

Dolores Wurth - April 15, 2002

Helen M. McCrehan – April 18, 1977

James Hilleary, – April 23, 1990

Margaret Newman – April 26, 1986

May God grant them His rest and His peace.

Franciscan Saints, Blessed & Holy Ones
(for all 3 branches of the Order)

April – Month of the Holy Face and the Redemption

1. Bl. Elisabeth Vendramini, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1860
2. St. Francois de Paule, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d/ 1507
3. St. Benoit le Maure, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1589
4. Bl. Guillaume de Sicli, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1404
5. St. Marie-Crescence, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1744
6. Bl. Angele Salawa, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1922
7. Bl. Maria-Assunta, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1925
8. Bl. Julien de St. Augustin, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1606
9. Bl. Thomas de Tolentino, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1321
10. Bl. Marc de Bologne, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1479
11. Bl. Ange De Chivasso, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1495
12. Bl. Boniface Zukowski, Priest, Conventual Religious, martyr 1942
13. Bl. Isabelle Rovira, Virgin, Capuchin religious, martyr, 1937
14. Bl. Lidwyne de Schiedam, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1433
15. Bl. Gandolphe de Binasco, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1260
16. St. Benedict-Joseph Labore, Confessor, Cordbearer, d. 1783 Plenary Indulgence for Cordbearers. Anniversary of the profession of St. Francis (1209)

17. Bl. Paul de St. Madeleine, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1643
18. Bl. Andre Hibernon, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
19. Bl. Conrad e Ascoli, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
20. Bl. Anastase Pankewicz, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1942
21. Bl. Francois de Fabriano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1322
22. St. Conrad de Parzham, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1894
23. Bl. Gilles of Assisi, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1262
24. St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest, Capuchin, martyr 1622
25. St. Marc, Grandes Rogations
26. Bl. Pierre De Pethancourt, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1667
27. St. Zita de Lucques, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1278
28. St. Paul of the Cross, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1775; Bl. Luchesius, 1st Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1260
Plenary Indulgence for Franciscan Third Order Seculars (renewal of Tertiary Engagements)
29. Bl. Benoit d'Urbin, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1625
30. St. Joseph-Benoit Cottolengo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1842



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