



Our Lady of the Rosary
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Williamsburg, Virginia

January

2024

www.olrsfo.weebly.com

Message from our Minister ...

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who helped make the retreat a success. I especially want to thank Eileen for keeping me on track and managing the many pieces that needed to come together to make the day special. Starting the day with Mass placed us in God's hands for what followed.

Fr. Charley Miller led us through a day of reflecting on the Incarnation and the Christ that is eternal. The Franciscan view is that Christ became human because of love, not to repair the damage due to sin. As Sr. Iliia Delio wrote "The mystery of Christ and our lives as humans are intertwined. We are caught up in the eternal love of the Father for the Son, that is, we are caught up in the Spirit of love." *A Franciscan View of Creation, p. 34.*

A new year will bring a new goal to fraternity formation. In 2023, our goal was focused on relationships and the importance of communication in fostering those relationships. For 2024 we will reflect on that Sunday's gospel from a Franciscan perspective. What Franciscan charism (giving, healing, hospitality, service, etc.) can we see reflected in the Gospel and how can we make this charism present in the world, our parish, our neighborhood, our fraternity, our family. St. Francis lived the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Franciscans, how will we live the Gospel through our lives?

The newsletter will include information on regional retreats that will happen in February. Please think about attending one of them. They are always worthwhile and I will most probably be attending at least one of them. We can carpool.

I hope everyone had a blessed and joy filled Christmas. As 2024 starts, I pray that each one of you have a year filled with God's blessings.

Pace e bene,

Peg



The Empty Crib—Formation Director—Donna Kendall

One of the initial undertakings that first-time parents embark upon is shopping for a baby crib. Once they get the + mark on the pregnancy test or visit a doctor and get an ultrasound confirmation, the job at hand is to seek out the perfect crib for their first child. It's exciting and much thought for safety, style, and sturdiness goes into the decision. They search various baby stores and/or furniture stores or nowadays probably go online and do their research for the best-rated crib. Naturally, they want the best that they can afford for their new child. Currently, new cribs range from \$200-\$1600. Those in more meager circumstances may rely on charity, second-hand cribs, or a makeshift cradle.

While listening to the Christmas hymn "Away in a Manger" this past month, the lyrics that say, "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head" really struck me. I imagined that Mary and Joseph, like most parents, thought about a crib for their new baby – not just any baby – but the Son of the Most High. I suspect that Joseph, being a skilled carpenter probably got right to work. He would have made a special crib for Jesus, but as we know, he and Mary had to leave Nazareth for Bethlehem, and then flee to Egypt, leaving an empty crib behind. What really struck me about the hymn's lyrics was the image of any modern day parent placing their newborn in an animal trough instead of a Wayfair baby crib. We hear these lyrics every year and hopefully do not become desensitized to the image of the most precious baby ever born lying in a stable feeding box. That image should remain with us throughout the year because there are children born in poverty whose parents cannot afford a luxury crib or even have access to a second-hand cradle. There is a reason Jesus chose these humble beginnings. Who would have given a second thought to our Savior being placed in a crib provided by loving parents? That's the norm.

In a children's book about Saint Francis of Assisi written by Father Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D. the story begins with the mother of Francis, Pica Bernadone, wanting "to be like the Mother of God. She wanted her son to be born in a stable... She left her beautiful bedroom to go to one of the stalls in her stable before her baby was born. The first cradle of Francis was one of straw in a stable – like Jesus." Eleven hundred years after the birth of Jesus, the pursuit of imitating his humble birth and recalling the plight of the poor was foremost on Francis' mother's mind, and later Francis himself. As followers of Francis, keeping Christ's humility should be foremost on our minds as well.

When Jesus endured his passion and death, he also left behind an empty tomb. Salvation history begins with humility and ends in glory. Let us make the upcoming New Year the year we pursue humility and live our lives giving glory to God. In January we will begin with what we can leave behind this year.



The Pope's Monthly Intentions

JANUARY



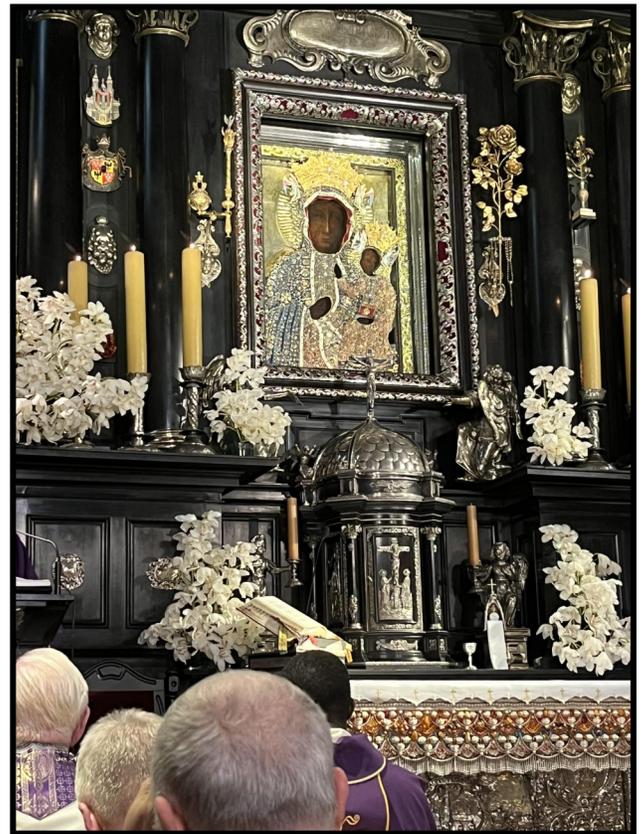
FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Birthdays

Donna Kendall — January 10

Next Fraternity Meeting—January 21 at 1:15pm (social gathering from 12:30-1:15)



A few more pictures from Karen's pilgrimage to Poland. The final resting place of Saint Faustina - Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Krakow, Poland and The Black Madonna of Częstochowa also known as Our Lady of Częstochowa is a venerated icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary housed at the Jasna Góra Monastery in Częstochowa, Poland.

Meeting date for 2024

The dates are normally the third Sunday of the month. We start with a social time at 12:30. The door to the Walsh room opens automatically at 12:30.

Do not enter the building until the door automatically unlocks even if staff or clergy will let you in. Entering early could negate our agreement with St. Bede.



January 21st

February 18th

March 17th

April 21st

May Not yet determined

June 23rd (change due to Father's Day)

July 21st

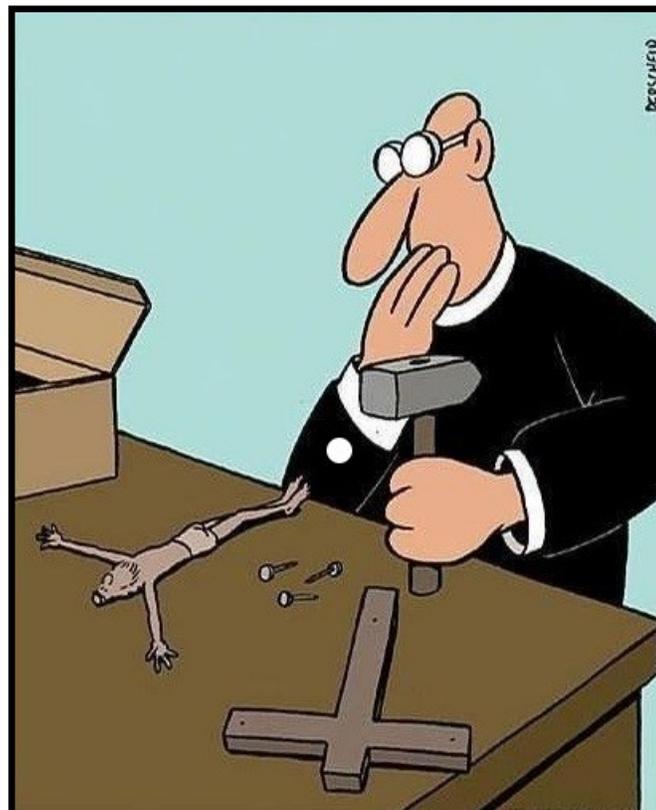
August 18th

September 15th

October 20th

November 17th

December 15th



Suddenly, Father Schober was not sure whether he really should have bought the new crucifix at Ikea.

**St. Margaret of Cortona OFS Region
OFS Seminar**



Christ Living in Me: Lent on LaVerna with St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis received the Stigmata from our Lord on Mt. Laverna in Assisi. This is a very special place to consider when reflecting on our part during the Lenten season. Fr. Russel will share with us his in-depth insights about St. Francis' Stigmata as seen through four Della Robbia altarpieces at La Verna. He will present slides of these altars as he teaches what they represent. A master in Franciscan spirituality, we will certainly receive enlightenment and inspiration in a very special way from this day together.

Fr. Russel Murray, OFM is highly accomplished in his study, knowledge, and experience about St. Francis as well as Franciscan Spirituality and charism. He lives this everyday as a Franciscan friar at Holy Name and his many responsibilities with the Poor Clares, positions with universities and in Rome, and here as one of our Regional Spiritual Assistants to name a few. His love and dedication to our Lord permeates all he does with love and kindness. We have been blessed by his presentation at the Day of Reflection in 2023 and his service around the region.



Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America
1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington DC
Cost: \$30.00 lunch is included

A free will offering will be collected

Schedule for the Day

9:30 am Adoration in the chapel
9:45 am Liturgy of Hours (Sing the Hours)
10:00 am Welcome and Coffee
10:15 am Morning Presentation Fr. Russel
12:00 Lunch
1:00 am Afternoon Presentation Fr. Russel
2:45 pm Closing and Prayer



Registration deadline is January 27, 2024.

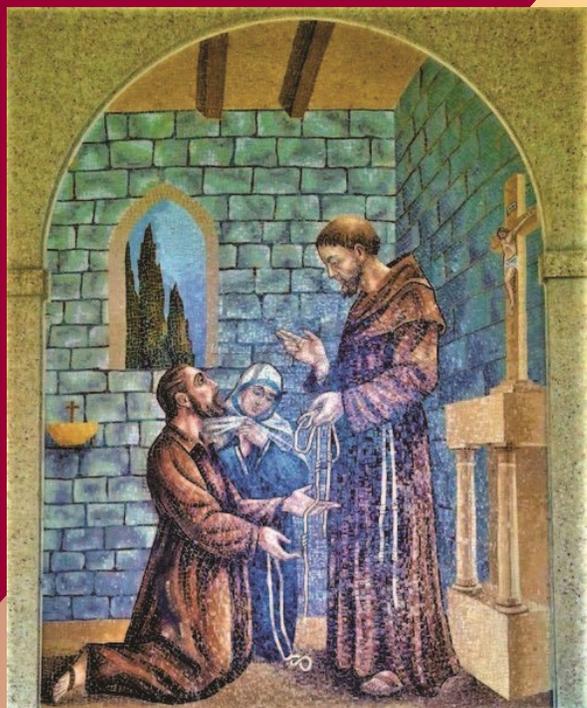
Register online at:

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAAA72EAAF94-45677791-christ#/
-christ#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAAA72EAAF94-45677791-christ#/)**

Or contact Rita Colleran OFS at rlcolleran10@gmail.com

Day of Reflection for Inquirers & Candidates

Saturday, February 24, 2024



Living a Penitential Life

Join us for this very special day created just for you! You are an inquirer beginning to learn about the Secular Franciscan life, or you are a candidate nearing the time to make the permanent commitment of profession to the Secular Franciscan Order. At this event you will learn more about the Secular Franciscan life and about the life long commitment made during profession.

Fr. Stephen King OFM Conventual
Will be the presenter for the Day. He has presented at several of our Regional retreats and seminars and is a favorite for his sense of humor, illuminating messages, and inspiration. He is also a regular presenter at the Shrine of St. Anthony and an author.



Saturday, February 24, 2024

9:30 - 3:00 pm

Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America

1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington DC

Cost: \$50.00 Lunch is included

A freewill offering will be collected for Fr. Stephen

TO REGISTER

Deadline is February 17, 2024

Register online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAAA72EAAF94-45678687-dayofreflection#/>

Or contact Rita Colleran at RLCOLLERAN10@GMAIL.COM or 703-310-9958

Schedule of the Day

9:30 am - Adoration in Chapel

9:45 am Coffee

10:00 am Liturgy of the Hours
(Sing the Hours)

10:15 am Morning Session—Fr. Stephen

12:00 Lunch

1:00 pm Afternoon Session—Fr. Stephen

2:45 pm Closing and Prayer