



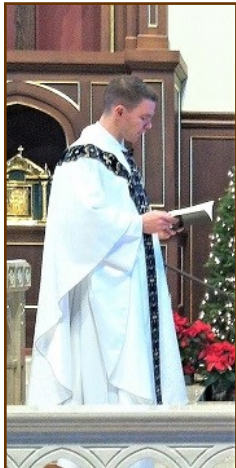
# IMMACULATA

*Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures...*

Newsletter of Immaculata Fraternity, Fredericksburg, Virginia



Edition 3. February 2019



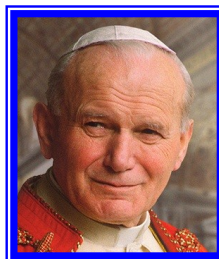
*Doug Chute (and St. Joseph)*

## **Doug Chute professes a life of Penance in the OFS!**

On January 12, 2019, Douglas Chute made his profession as a Secular Franciscan during a Mass at 10:00 a.m. at St. Jude Catholic Church in Fredericksburg, VA. The Mass was celebrated by Father Colin Davis, Parochial Vicar at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, also in Fredericksburg. Barbara McCoy, Immaculata Fraternity's Secretary, acted as Doug's sponsor during Profession which was led by Irene Theriault, Formation Director, and Skip Wallace, Minister. John Wagner was Cantor at the Mass.

## **Pope Saint John Paul II: Profession**

"Perhaps, you will not be required to pour out your blood as a martyr, but you will certainly be asked to give a coherent and steadfast witness in fulfilling the promises made at your Baptism and Confirmation, which you renewed and confirmed with your profession in the Franciscan Secular Order."



## **February Feast Days for Secular Franciscans**

2. Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
3. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, lay brothers and Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1597
6. Bl. Pius IX, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1878
10. Bl. Alojzije Stepinac, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1960
11. Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1858
12. Bl. Andre Ferrari, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1921
16. Bl. Veridiane, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1242
18. St. Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin, cordbearer, d. 1879 Plenary
19. St. Conrad de Plaisance, Confessor, Third Order Secular, d. 1351
21. St. Margaret of Cortona, penitent, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1297
22. Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
24. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1689
26. Bl. Antoinette de Florence, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533
27. Bl. Louise Albertoni, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533

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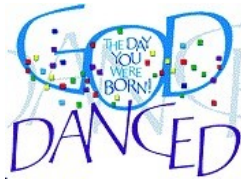
## Milestones

Fraternity Birthdays

Barbara McCoy February 5

Rose McCeney February 19

Irene Theriault February 24



Great window at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish

## Minister Message

I had an interesting experience at daily Mass recently. The first reading at that Mass was about St. Paul's conversion (Acts 22: 3-16). In a blaze of light, Christ literally knocked down the future Apostle trying to get his attention: "I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' I replied, 'Who are you, sir?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazorean'...Since I could see nothing because of the brightness of that light, I was led by hand by my companions and entered Damascus."

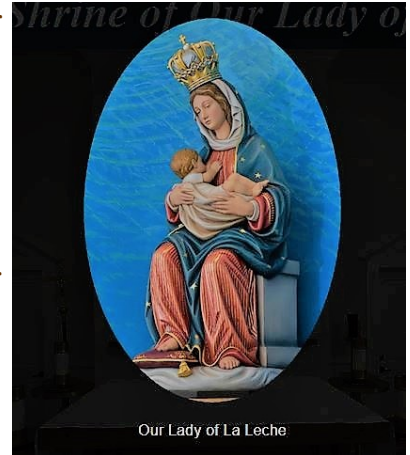
On clear days, winter mornings at my parish allow the sun to shine through the great stained glass window over the back altar. The light can be very intense. On this day, as my Pastor elevated the host declaring, "Behold the Lamb of God...", his hand raised the host into the sunlight above the altar. From my vantage point, it was blinding. I thought, "O happy fault!" or something to that effect. I wasn't knocked

## John and Helen Ann's Charity

Last month, John Wagner sent an email to all Fraternity members. In it, he mentioned a favorite charity he and Helen Ann contribute to:

"Helen Ann and I donate money to the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine, Florida, which we visited last year on a trip with the St. William of York choir. Under this title, and honored at this shrine, Our Lady is promoted as an intercessor for women seeking to conceive and women with medical issues during pregnancy. Our daughter Catherine is in need of such prayers during her current pregnancy."

The web address of the Shrine is <https://missionandshrine.org/>. Very informative, and the mission in Florida does wonderful work — worthy of your charitable consideration. And please, say a prayer for Catherine!



out of my pew like Paul was knocked down. But I felt in that moment I may be commanded to further conversion, as was the Apostle.

How? Through the personal: examen, confession, and ongoing, never-ending formation. We should wish to form -- *con-form* -- ourselves to the Gospel, as did St. Francis. And that means overcoming sin in our lives, identifying it and confessing it. It also means pursuing a life of penance: inwardly adopting an attitude of repentance and conversion of heart, interest, desire and outlook, and outwardly living a lifestyle of humility and simplicity. Something to consider is contained in the words of Raffaele Pazzelli, TOR, in his book, St. Francis and the Third Order: "Like the other two Franciscan orders, the Third Order is 'the school of the gospel' and demands adherence to it of thought and action." Our renewed commitment to personal conversion may start right there.