



IMMACULATA

Sanctify yourself and you will sanctify society.

Newsletter of Immaculata Fraternity, Fredericksburg, Virginia



Edition 5. April 2019

Stabat Mater for the 21st Century

At the Cross, our mournful Mother
Stands today – for Christ, our Brother,
Her dear Son, is pierced anew.

Though we know His Resurrection,
Sins to her heart make connection.
Now again, the sword cuts through.

The Lamb was slain for once, for all,
Eternal rise despite the Fall,
Life from death upon a tree.

Via Crucis men still follow
Lest Christ's victory ring hollow,
Seeking Him in sanctity.

Our Mother's prayer, as then, is real.
She knows the pain her children feel,
Bears the loss her children know.

She stands, as then, beholds her Son,
Her pleas ensure our cause is won –
Aiding in our way to go.

Her mother's heart formed first for Him,
Her blood sustained Him, yet within,
Until birth on Christmas Day.

She shares the wounds inflicted when
New Holy Innocents again
Herods seek to sweep away.

Blood of martyrs yet is flowing,
Witness to the Church still growing,
From the dying seeds they sow.

In the depths of desolation,
She provides her consolation,
With Her Son, whose Life they know.

Others suffer persecution
Short of death, in retribution
For believing in the Lord.



Mary offers solace, sharing
Love maternal, ever caring,
Comforting us with a Word.

We press on, in sacred sorrow,
Longing deeply for the morrow
When earth's groans and tears shall cease.

Through the Cross, with our Queen Mother,
She will lead us – sister, brother –
Homeward to the Prince of Peace.

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April Feast Days and Holy Days for Secular Franciscans

- 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
- 14. Bl. Lidwyne de Schiedam, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1433
- 16. Anniversary of the profession of St. Francis (1209)
- 23. Bl. Giles of Assisi, lay brother, original companion of St. Francis, d. 1262
- 24. St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest, Capuchin, martyr 1622
- 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. Luchesius, 1st Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1260 Plenary Indulgence for OFS
- 30. St. Joseph-Benoit Cottolengo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1842





Milestones

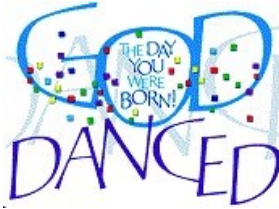
Fraternity Birthdays

Maria Ullmer

April 11

Karen Haskell

April 21



ADMONITIONS OF ST. FRANCIS

17. On the humble servant of God

"Blessed (is) that servant" (Mt 24:46), who does not exalt himself more because of the good, which the Lord says and works through him, than that which He says and works through another. · A man sins, who wants rather to receive from his neighbor, what he does not want to give of himself to the Lord God.



Eucharistic Adoration at Local Churches

St. Mary Immaculate Conception (Fredericksburg)

▶ Daily – 6:30 am to 9 am

▶ Wednesdays – 12:30 pm to

Friday 9 am

St. Matthew (Spotsylvania)

▶ Friday April 5 – 8 pm to 12

midnight

St. Patrick (Fredericksburg)

▶ Monday (w/Miraculous Medal

Novena) 7 pm to 7:30 pm

▶ Thursday (Holy Hour) 7:30 pm

to 8:30 pm

▶ First Fridays – from Thurs.

Holy Hour to Fri. 9 am

▶ First Saturdays – 7:50 am to 9 am

St. William of York (Stafford)

▶ First Fridays – after 9 am Mass to 6:15 pm

St. Anthony of Padua (King George)

▶ Fridays – 9:30 am to 6:15 pm



Minister Message

Seems like most every time I pray the Liturgy of the Hours, I appreciate the genius of the Breviary -- the prayers to which I am led, the Scriptures of the day, or the Psalm that uncannily speaks to my mood or my thinking at that particular time.

On a recent Lenten Tuesday I realized that my prayers had been slack for a few days. Slack? Of all times, during Lent? My favorite season of the Church year? I had forgotten to pray Morning Prayer that Tuesday. So, after dinner I cracked open the Breviary to do Evening Prayer. I got to the reading and it was from Philippians 2:12-16, including "...work with anxious concern to achieve your salvation..." Anxious concern: I had been lazy, and here were the words of St. Paul convicting me of it! Then I just happened to glance over to the opposite page and saw the midmorning

scripture from Ezekiel 18: "Turn and be converted from all your crimes, that they be no cause of guilt for you." My gosh, if I feature myself a fighter for the Lord, Holy Liturgy just delivered a stiff left jab followed by right cross to the jaw.

No, I don't think my lackadaisical slump in prayer time amounts to "crimes," but I "get" Ezekiel's wakeup call to turn (again) and be converted. And St. Paul's admonition to stay vigilant and attentive, to work with anxious concern approaching the Lord day by day, is something I'll try not to forget. Professing as a Secular Franciscan, I committed to praying the Liturgy of the Hours. I occasionally, briefly, fall away from it. Coming back to the Liturgy, though, reminds me again of the attitude I need -- of taking the right road to "achieve my salvation."

— Skip Wallace, OFS