



The Troubadour

St. Margaret of Cortona Region
Our Lady Queen of the Angels Fraternity
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

"The rule and life of the Secular Franciscan Order is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of life with God and people. Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly. Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel."
— Rule #4, The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

March—April—May 2019

Upcoming Dates and Events:

Sunday, April 14—12:30-3:30 p.m.—Gathering at St. Leo the Great Church

Saturday, April 20—Day of Recollection and Service (Departure Time TBD) at St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia, PA

Monday, May 6—6:30-7:45 pm.—Initial Formation at St. Leo the Great Church

Monday, May 13—6:45 a.m. Mass (Dominican Monastery, Lititz Pike) followed by 7:45 a.m. departure (St. John Neumann)—Retreat at Franciscan Monastery, Washington DC

Thursday, May 9—6:30 p.m.—Council Meeting at St. Leo the Great Church, Room 2

Sunday, May 19—12:30-3:30 p.m.—PICNIC at Lynch Home, 129 Penningdon Drive, Landisville



Council

Kelly Ann Lynch, Minister
Mary Anne Fanale, Vice Minister
Susan Rineer, Secretary
Larry Rineer, Treasurer
Beth Treier, Formation Director
Julie Rasp, Councilor
Lourdes Morton, Councilor

Dear Fellow Franciscans,

Happy Spring! The earth seems to be bursting with color right now as we prepare for Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Imagine Mary's joy upon seeing her Son that early morning? Though Scriptures make no mention of this event, Pope John Paul II said, "Indeed it is legitimate to think that the Mother was probably the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared" (*see pages 3 and 8*). As we focus on Jesus' Resurrection, the sixth joy of Mary, have we ever pondered the great joy that we experience when we see Him (*see page 13*)?

This newsletter, like the flowers upon the earth right now, is bursting with information—celebrations (*page 2*), formation updates (*page 4*), upcoming events—a retreat and a day of service (*page 5*), humor (*page 9*) and picnic plans (*page 16*). You'll also enjoy some reprinted information from past issues of The Troubadour (*pages 6 and 7*). I've really enjoyed looking through some of the older issues and was delighted when I found the very first issue of our fraternity's newsletter dated Autumn 1991 with George Garbrick as its editor.

Last month, I traveled to a Navajo reservation in New Mexico with my husband and parents as part of a Mychal's Message project where we met 6 year-old Serena, beaming with joy, wearing new pink sneakers just provided by the donations of others. Inside (*pages 10 and 11*) you'll read about Serena and how she learned that God knew the desires of her heart and how in a project **for** the children, so much was learned **from** the children.

As the earth bursts with color and we await with great anticipation the Resurrection, let us each in our own way burst with joy, the Franciscan joy that is such a part of who we are.

With Great Joy,
Kelly Ann Lynch

PRAYER INTENTIONS FROM THE POPE AND THE OFS

These were the intentions from March.
From the Pope: Evangelization—Recognition of the Rights of Christian Communities—That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

From the OFS: For the national fraternity of south Africa (FPV) and for the CIOFS Presidency.

Our Father ...



Please pray for these intentions in April.
From the Pope: Universal—Doctors and their Collaborators in War Zones—For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

From the OFS: For the national fraternity of Hungary (FPV).

Our Father ...

Please pray for these intentions in May.
From the Pope: Evangelization—The Church in Africa, Seed of Unity—That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

From the OFS: For the national fraternities of Togo, Czech Republic (FPV); Burkina Faso, Belgium, Panama, Vietnam and Ukraine (Chapters).

Our Father ...

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Wish them a Happy Birthday!

- March 1—Julie Rasp
- March 11—Jim Stefanow
- March 14—Larry Rineer
- March 30—Sharon Hickey
- April 6—Rosa Mastromatteo
- April 24—Jonathan Heise
- April 29—Theresa White-Lightner
- May 3—Roberta Stefanow
- May 24—Audrey Shadeck
- May 29—Ken Giovanelli

Wish them a Happy OFS Anniversary!

- March 7 Jackie Holzel and Julie Rasp (15 years)
- March 15—Mark Agen (25 years)
- April 14—Jim and Roberta Stefanow (34 years)
- April 20—Sue Bedard (31 years)
- May 17—Mary Anne Fanale and Maureen Fitzgerald (4 years)



As we celebrate the anniversaries of our profession into the Secular Franciscan Order this year, the Council will present each of us with a small San Damiano cross and holy card that were purchased in Assisi and blessed at the Tomb of St. Francis. If you have celebrated an anniversary in January, February, March or April and have not received your gift, please see a Council member.

THE ENCOUNTER OF THE RISEN CHRIST WITH HIS MOTHER

“The Scriptures are mostly silent about Mary during Jesus’ Passion after his resurrection,” writes Joanne McPortland (*Salubong: An Easter morning Mother-and-Child reunion, aletia.org, Apr. 15, 2017*).

In fact, the only mention of her present at the crucifixion is in John’s Gospel where Jesus entrusts His Mother to His beloved disciple. She is mentioned again in the Acts of the Apostles as being present in the Upper Room with the apostles after Jesus had gone to be with the Father.



us that just because something isn’t in the Scriptures doesn’t mean it didn’t happen.

McPortland also surmises in her article that “the Gospels provide us with the Risen Christ’s first appearances to his beloved

friends and followers—Mary Magdalene, the apostles, the disciples bound for Emmaus. But perhaps no words could capture the meeting of Jesus with his mother, her heart pierced this time by the exquisite sword of joy.”

An old manuscript entitled *Meditationes de Vita Christi* (The Meditations on the Life of Christ) is said to have been scribed sometime in the 14th century. This devotional work was thought to have been the work of St. Bonaventure (1217-1274), but its true author and precise date of composition remain unknown. In it is a mention of the appearance of the Resurrected Christ to His Mother, and many theologians over the centuries remind

Each year before the early dawn of Easter morning a reenactment of the Risen Jesus meeting His Mother Mary is performed in the different provinces of the Philippines. Called *Salubong* (meaning welcome), this same reenactment is also celebrated in the United States among Filipino Catholics. “Two processions form in the streets around the parish church, coming from opposite directions,” McPortland writes. “The men and boys carry a life-sized figure

See ENCOUNTER (continued on page 8)

FORMATION UPDATES

INITIAL FORMATION ... Ric Johnson and Julie Rasp, along with Beth Treier and Mary Anne Fanale have been meeting the first Monday of each month with several men and women considering their vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order. Their orientation phase has just been completed, and five of them will be welcomed into the fraternity on April 14 in a Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming as they become inquirers (for the next six months).

Join us in welcoming Jessica Nourse, Katie Farren, Jill and Marianne Nicklaus and Vicki Beers. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to embark upon their Franciscan journeys towards Christ by following in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

ONGOING FORMATION ... We began our new book, *Surrounded by Love: Seven Teachings from Saint Francis* by Murray Bodo, OFM and are through the Preface and Introduction. We will be focusing on pages 1 through 8 at our April gathering and continue from there in June (since our annual picnic will take the place of our May gathering).

In the Preface, Bodo uses a metaphor to describe how he misunderstood what appeared to be Francis' almost immediate ascent of Mount Subasio with the fact that Francis had to first descend from the city of Assisi to the plain below where the lepers lived. In a sense, he had to go *down* before he could go *up*. For Bodo, doing that meant learning to live in the real world where he discovered that by living among those who are not easy to live with, he could

"...and in that encounter Francis felt something momentous had happened. His heart had somehow changed, and he was filled with joy."
 -Murray Bodo, *Surrounded by Love*

learn what loving was really all about. "We have to learn that living on the mountaintop of spiritual experiences is an ideal, a dream, and only by first learning to live in peace with those who don't have the same ideals or who differ from us in other ways, can we hope to ascend the mountain of union with God." He offers this in comparison with two ideals—1) the moments before St. Francis ascended the mountain of LaVerna, thus receiving the stigmata, and 2) Jesus descending from heaven to live among us and then ascending into heaven from the Mount of Olives. He makes a poignant comment that is noteworthy—"that going down in order to ascend is what I have learned from St. Francis." **T**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 20, 2019 (Holy Saturday), A Day of Reflection and Service at St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia. At the April gathering, you will have a chance to sign up for this holy day of reflection and service. We will carpool from St. Leo the Great Church, 2427 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA. See detailed schedule below:



- 6:15 a.m.—Meet at St. Leo’s
- 6:30 a.m.—Depart St. Leo’s
- 8:00 a.m.—Arrive at St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia
- 8:30 a.m.—Mass
- 9:30 a.m.—Presentation by Father Michael Duffy, OFM
- 11:00 a.m.—Prepare for Meal
- 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.—Serve Meal
- 1:30 p.m.—Depart St. Francis Inn, Bag Lunch
- 3:00 p.m.—Arrive at St. Leo’s

Bring a brown bag lunch to eat on the way back to Lancaster!

Monday, May 13, 2019, Annual OFS Retreat, Franciscan Monastery, Washington DC. See schedule below for our annual retreat at the Franciscan Monastery.

- 6:45 a.m.—Mass at Dominican Monastery, Lititz Pike (for anyone interested in attending Mass)
- 7:45 a.m.—Bus departs from St. John Neumann, Lancaster. (Park in upper far lot)
- 10:30 a.m.—Arrive Franciscan Monastery
- 11:00 a.m.—Tour of the Crypt, Bag Lunch
- 1:00 p.m.—Marian Tour, Grotto Visit, Recite Crown Rosary, Visit Gift Shop
- 3:30 p.m.—Depart Franciscan Monastery
- 6:15 p.m.—Arrive St. John Neumann

Bring a brown bag lunch!

Sunday, May 19, 2019, FRATERNITY PICNIC at the Lynch Home, 129 Pennington Drive, Landisville, PA (more details on page 14)



DID YOU KNOW ... that St. Francis made a major contribution to world literature and the development of the modern Italian language when he composed his famous Canticle of the Creatures in a new dialect? *(from June, 1995 issue of The Troubadour)*



FROM OUR OFS FRATERNITY ARCHIVES

Reprinted from our own issues of The Troubadour

"ALL PEACE"

*submitted by Joe Dougherty
Spring 1992 issue of The Troubadour*

All peace! What a beautiful time of the year we are now experiencing. The Grace of God gained for us by Christ, our brother, is evident at this time of the year. New Life is upon us once again as we welcome spring. How much we look forward to spring. How significant the ending of our winter and the beginning of our spring with the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord! How good God is to give us these vivid pictures of salvation. May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ bring us all into awareness of the Love of God so that we may know the joy of Easter.

"A TALE OF TWO WOMEN"

*submitted by Bob Sommer
March 2004 issue of The Troubadour*

In the Twelfth Century, in the south of France, two women were born who were to have an impact on world events and history far beyond their times. Their names were Eleanor and Pica. First, about Eleanor—she was the niece of the Duke of Aquitaine; she was a great influence over the culture; politics and manners of her time; she was at the center of the romantic movement which gave birth to

the Troubadours; she was wife to Phillip of France and later wife to Henry II of England and Normandy to whom she gave four sons—Henry, John, Geoffrey and Richard. You may have seen the film, "The Lion in Winter" in which Eleanor of Aquitaine is played by Katherine Hepburn. She had great influence over Henry II in his dispute with Archbishop Thomas Becket which eventually resulted in the murder of Becket by Henry's knights at Canterbury. "Murder in the Cathedral" by T. S. Eliot is a wonderful retelling of this tragedy.

But the thing she has in comparison with Pica was in the sons they bore. Eleanor's became known to history as "Richard the Lionhearted," warrior, crusader, man of violence, man of the sword. Pica's son was John, known to history as "Francis," man of peace, of poverty and of love.


Where Richard shaped geography, Francis shaped hearts.

Where Richard brought death, Francis brought life.

Where Richard celebrated power, Francis celebrated meekness.

From historians we know a great deal about the life of Eleanor. We know little about the life of Pica. But from their fruits you shall know them. From Eleanor... Richard, and from Pica... Francis, and from Francis... eternity.

Jerusalem **OBITUARIES** 33 AD



Calvary

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.

Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, His devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers.

Jesus was self educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the Good News, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the tomb. Roman soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.

FROM OUR OFS FRATERNITY ARCHIVES



*Reprinted from our own issues
of The Troubadour*

This obituary (pictured left) was printed in our May-June 2010 issue of The Troubadour.



“A PRAYER TO OUR LADY”

May-June 2010 issue of The Troubadour

Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, we believe in your triumphant assumption into Heaven where the angels and saints acclaim you as Queen. We join them in praising you and bless the Lord who raised you above all creatures. With them we offer you our devotion and love. We are confident that you watch over our daily efforts and needs, and we take comfort from our faith in the coming resurrection. We look to you, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. After this earthly life, show us Jesus, the blest fruit of your womb, O kind, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen. **T**

ENCOUNTER (continued from page 3)

of the Risen Christ, bearing the banner of victory over death. The women and girls carry a life-sized figure of Mary, dressed in black and covered with the traditional *lambong*, a head-to-toe black lace mourning veil.”

The two key figures of the Salubong—Jesus and His Mother—are portrayed by statues, while the angel is portrayed by a human person, described by McPortland as “usually a young girl suspended from on high inside a large paper flower” who “lifts Mary’s mourning veil, and the two figures are brought together, their bearers running, to embrace.” The removal of Mary’s black veil symbolizes the end of her grief as she sees her resurrected Son. In some reenactments, Mary’s black gown is then turned inside out to reveal a gold shimmering one.

Often there is a central stage where the processions meet. A great celebration takes place with singing and dancing. A children’s choir may lead the crowds in the “Hallelujah” chorus, before everyone heads into the church for Easter Mass at dawn.

Though not written in the Scriptures, the encounter of Christ meeting His Mother after the resurrection has been depicted in art and the religious culture and customs of

churches all over the world, like those in the Philippines. Other towns in Brazil, Mexico and Peru also have a similar reenactment called Encuentro (or Encounter).

St. John Paul II posed this question on May 21, 1997 at his general audience—“Could not the absence of Mary from the group of women who approached the tomb at dawn constitute an indication that she had already met Jesus?” The holy saint went on, “Indeed it is legitimate to think that the Mother was probably the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared.”

Finally, the Pope shared these words: “It seems reasonable to think that Mary, as the image and model of the Church which waits for the Risen One and meets him in the group of disciples during his Easter appearances, had had a personal contact with her risen Son, so that she too could delight in the fullness of Paschal joy. Present at Calvary on Good Friday (John 19:25) and in the Upper Room on Pentecost (Acts 1:14), the Blessed Virgin too was probably a privileged witness of Christ’s Resurrection, completing in this way her participation in all the essential moments of the Paschal mystery.” **T**



JUST A LITTLE JOY

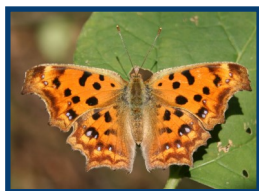
submitted by Janet Kreiner

Wherever you are this Spring, keep an eye out for these interesting sights and make a note of when you first observe them outdoors. See how quickly you can tally up the full twenty! Will it take you through the month of May or will you find them all by the end of April? Only time will tell, and you can share this challenge with your fellow naturalists and family members.

Groundhog
Skunk Cabbage Blooming
Tree Swallow
Pickerel Frog
Anglewing Butterfly
House Wren
Trout Lily Blooming

Wood Frog Egg Mass
Bloodroot Blooming
Spring Peeper
Garter Snake
Barn Swallow
Robin Building Nest
Violet Blooming

Snowdrops Blooming
Eastern Phoebe
American Toad
Snapping Turtle
Water Snake
Spring Beauty Blooming



*JOY is not
in things,
it is...in us.*




Golf Humor

The bride was escorted down the aisle and when she reached the altar, the groom was standing there with his golf bag and clubs at his side.

She said: "What are your golf clubs doing here?"


He looked her right in the eye and said, "This isn't going to take all day, is it?"



More Golf Humor:

A gushy reporter told Phil Mickelson, "You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What is your secret?"

Phil answered, "The holes are numbered."



AROUND THE FRATERNITY

FOR THE CHILDREN

submitted by Kelly Ann Lynch

Last month, I was blessed to travel to Thoreau, New Mexico with my husband and parents in a Mychal's Message project that brought new socks and sneakers to Navajo children.

As we approached St. Bonaventure Indian Mission School the early morning of Friday, March 22nd, there was great anticipation, excitement and emotion as we prayed together the words of Father Mychal Judge – "Lord, take us where You want us to go, let us meet who You want us to meet, tell us what You want us to say, and keep us out of Your way." The Lord had taken us where He wanted us to go today and we were about to meet people who'd change our lives forever.

It is almost impossible to put into words what my husband, parents and I experienced yesterday at St. Bonaventure Indian Mission School. As I recall the smiles of the children and their sweet faces that lit up with excitement as they opened their boxes with new sneakers inside, there was only joy.

In anticipation of our visit, St. Bonaventure school teachers and staff had sized each child and provided us with a list of names, whether the child was a boy or a girl, and shoe sizes. Sneakers, all purchased ahead with funds that were donated to Mychal's



Message for this project, had been carefully and specifically chosen for each child as they were purchased, one by one, by my mother. They were now before us - 200 pair of sneakers and 400 pair of socks, sorted by the school staff in preparation of our arrival.

Sister Josephine was among the first to greet us outside the school's entrance. Sister Josephine and Sister Erlinda, both Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculata, are serving at the St. Bonaventure Mission in their Order's first time on American soil. Their genuine and childlike

joy was absolutely contagious. Smiles and hugs were exchanged, and shortly after we were inside, the children – from preschool to 8th grade – were called, class by class, to the school's gymnasium where we were waiting. As we called each child by name and handed them a box with their new sneakers inside, there were only smiles – great smiles – and only two words, spoken by each child – "thank you." One class collectively said "thank you" in their native Navajo language, while another class sang a beautiful song for us in Navajo.

Once the distribution was complete, we were given a tour of the Mission that reaches 3,000 men, women and children who live on the Navajo reservation. Most Navajo homes have sketchy electricity and do not have running water. We were blessed to see the well at the Mission that serves these families when Darlene Arviso, affectionately known here as the "Water Lady," loads up a tanker truck and sets out on dirt roads through the reservation to deliver water, something most of us take for granted.

After lunch with the students and staff, we went into the chapel to set up for the presentations for the students. With puppets and story-telling, we taught the children how to listen for God's voice with the ears of their hearts. We shared the story of Samuel and Eli and how Samuel discovered that the voice he was hearing was God's. We also shared many true stories about Our Lady who always leads us to her Son. And we told them all about Mychal's Message and our friend, Father Mychal Judge and all he taught us over the years.

After one of the presentations, the kindergarten teacher approached us, with a student by the name of Serena beside her. Serena was precious, shy and sweet. Her teacher said, "tell them the story, the story about the sneakers." Serena was wearing her new pink sneakers (just given to her by Mychal's Message) and told us that the week before, she saw those exact sneakers in a store and asked her mother to buy them for her. Serena told us that her mother said, "they're too much money and we can't buy them today." Serena stood before us, beaming with joy, in those new pink sneakers, and we assured her that God must have known exactly what she wanted and how he used us to get those sneakers to her.

After hearing the story of the Mychal's Message "Surprise Project" (\$10 McDonald's Arch cards for the homeless), one student approached us and asked if he could have one of those cards. He said he wanted to give it to the "man who stands outside of Applebee's in Gallup every day." When my father gave this young child the card, the boy looked up at him, relieved and grateful, and said, "Now this man can eat."

The story didn't end there, and what happened next is only something God could have orchestrated. Later that evening, after having dinner in Gallup before heading home, my mother

***"There's the guy!
There's the guy!"***

suggested going to the local Walmart to purchase 200 candy bars to leave for the children on Monday along with the prayer cards containing the prayer of Father Mychal that they'd also be receiving that morning. After leaving Walmart, as we headed towards the highway that would bring us back to our hotel, my mother said, "There's the guy! There's the guy!" She then asked my husband to stop the car. We all looked up and saw a homeless

man standing there on the corner, begging for food. We then realized where we were – right outside of Applebee's in Gallup. We had just met the man that the young boy at St. Bonaventure told us about.

My father got out of the car and encountered this gentle Navajo man of small stature and gave him an Arch card. The man, named Edwin, thanked my father, then shook his hand. He didn't want to let go. He shared that he'd recently lost his wife and was so heartbroken that he now found himself homeless and hungry, living on the streets. My father told him that we'd just come from St. Bonaventure Indian Mission School and about the young boy who told us about him. He held my father's hand and thanked him on behalf of the Navajo people.

As we drove away that evening, with the man disappearing into the distance, we realized that it is truly in giving that we receive. And in a project that was *for* the children, we actually learned *from* the children. It was the perfect ending of a perfect day.

For more information on Mychal's Message, visit Facebook or www.mychalsmessage.org.

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SOME FRANCISCAN SAINTS, THEIR FEAST DAYS AND OTHER SPECIAL DATES

March 1—St. Agnes of Prague, Virgin, Poor Clares (1205-March 6, 1282)

March 6—St. Colette, Foundress Colettin Poor Clares (February 13, 1381-March 6, 1447)

March 9—St. Catherine of Bologna, Poor Clare Sister and St. Frances of Rome, Franciscan Third Order Secular (September 8, 1413-March 9, 1463)

March 19—St. Joseph, Foster Father of Our Lord

March 25—Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

April 23—Bl. Giles of Assisi, Order of Friars Minor (1190-April 23, 1262)

April 30—St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo Third Order Secular, Founder (May 3, 1786-April 30, 1842)

May 16—St. Margaret of Cortona, Third Order Secular (1247-February 22, 1297)

May 24—Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi (1253)

May 30—St. Joan of Arc, Secular Franciscan, "Maid of Orleans" and martyr of France (1412-May 30, 1431)

For a full list of Franciscan saints, visit <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/franciscan-calendar.html>

Saint Margaret of Cortona's Story

Margaret was born of farming parents in Laviano, Tuscany. Her mother died when Margaret was seven; life with her stepmother was so difficult that Margaret moved out. For nine years she lived with Arsenio, though they were not married, and she bore him a son. In those years, she had doubts about her situation. Somewhat like Saint Augustine, she prayed for purity—but not just yet.



One day she was waiting for Arsenio and was instead met by his dog. The animal led Margaret into the forest where she found Arsenio murdered. This crime shocked Margaret into a life of penance. She and her son returned to Laviano, where she was not well received by her stepmother. They then went to Cortona, where her son eventually became a friar.

In 1277, three years after her conversion, Margaret became a Franciscan tertiary. Under the direction of her confessor, who sometimes had to order her to moderate her self-denial, she pursued a life of prayer and penance at Cortona. There she established a hospital and founded a congregation of tertiary sisters. The poor and humble Margaret was, like Francis, devoted to the Eucharist and to the passion of Jesus. These devotions fueled her great charity and drew sinners to her for advice and inspiration. She was canonized in 1728.

(Reprinted from <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-margaret-of-cortona>)



PRAYING THE FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY

(6th in a 7 part series)

by Kelly Ann Lynch

As Franciscans, we pray the Crown Rosary to honor the joys of Our Blessed Mother Mary. In *The Franciscan Crown, The Joyful Mysteries in the lives of the Virgin Mary and Saint Francis of Assisi*, by Robert Melnick, OFM Conv. and Joseph Wood, OFM Conv., the authors share stories from the life of St. Francis and relate them to Our Lady. In another book, *Praying the Franciscan Crown Rosary*, by Victoria L. Spalding, OFS, the author gives beautiful meditations on each mystery including special words that could be shared by Our Lady ("Mary Speaks"). And in a third book (purchased in Assisi) entitled *The Franciscan Rosary* published by Edizioni Porziuncola, its author relates the words of St. Francis to each mystery.

The Sixth Joy of Mary—The Resurrection/ Meeting the Risen Christ

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but they did not find the body of Jesus. And behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them and said, 'Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here but he has been raised.'"

Some might say that this mystery is a mystery indeed for there is no mention in the Scriptures of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, meeting Him after

the Resurrection. Yet, theologians and holy men and women have pondered this for centuries and believe it to be true. In Spalding's book, the author offers us an opportunity to meditate on this "joyous reunion," as she calls it, "that must have taken place between Mary and Jesus." She writes how "tears of happiness and love must have been exchanged so freely between them" for "Jesus' suffering was ended and was now turned into redemption for all of humanity." She challenges her readers by prompting this question—"Have you ever pondered the great joy that you give Jesus when you recognize Him as your Savior?"

Further, Spalding offers her readers an insight into what Mary may have said in those moments when she saw Jesus resurrected from the dead. *"It was upon great joy, that I recognized my Son, Jesus, risen from the dead. What great joy, indeed, filled my soul!"* She goes on to give her readers an image of that reunion where Mother and Son embrace. And, then the author so gently writes, as if Mary is speaking the words herself, *"My children, do you not wish to hold Jesus tight to your arms as well? Why do you delay in greeting Him in the Eucharist of His love? His love is enormous for you! He wants to hold you tight and embrace you in His heart."*

"Have you ever pondered the great joy that you give Jesus when you recognize Him as your Savior?" T





From The Little Flowers of Saint Francis, XIV (adapted)

The Lady Clare always had a great desire to visit the blessed Francis or have him visit her. On one particular occasion Francis agreed to meet with Lady Clare, but added, "In order to give her greater pleasure, I wish the meal to take place at the chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels because our sister Clare has been cloistered a long time in the monastery of San Damiano." When Lady Clare arrived with one other companion they sat together for a humble fare on the ground in a clearing of the small forest. The blessed father then began to speak about God in such a profound and gentle manner that he and the Lady became rapt in the overabundance of divine graces which descended upon them. And while they were

sitting there with their eyes and hands raised to heaven, it seemed to the people of Assisi and the entire district, that the chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels and the whole forest was aflame. Consequently, the people of those places ran down in great haste to save the small chapel and the religious who dwelt there. But when they arrived they saw that nothing was on fire. Entering the clearing they found father Francis and mother Clare, and all of their companions sitting around that humble spread rapt in God by contemplation. **T**

Reprinted from The Franciscan Crown by Robert Melnick, OFM Conv. And Joseph Wood, OFM Conv.

TRAVEL TO ASSISI, ROME & SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

with Travel Guide, Julie Rasp, OFS

September 30—October 10, 2019



There is still room on Julie's pilgrimage to Assisi, Rome and San Giovanni Rotondo.

Details: Our private coach will transport us to the ancient town of Assisi where we will be staying for four nights; bed, breakfast and dinner included. Our visit will take place over the Transitus of Saint Francis, a very sacred annual Franciscan ceremony.

Next, our private shuttle service will take us southeast to the hill country of San Giovanni Rotondo where the incorrupt body of Saint Pio lay. On our way, we will visit Lanciano, home of a Eucharistic Miracle. Our driver will also stop at the Basilica in Loreto, Italy to visit the holy house of Nazareth, another miraculous event in history. Our overnight stay in San Giovanni Rotondo includes bed, breakfast and dinner.

Finally we will travel west to

Rome, Italy for four more nights, breakfast only. Each pilgrim will receive an OMNIA Card that allows you free entry to most attractions and includes hop on hop off bus transportation throughout the city for three consecutive days & so much more!

If the Pope is available and not traveling, we will have the opportunity to see him during his Wednesday Papal Audience.

Cost: \$1499 includes

- All transfers to Assisi/San Giovanni Rotondo/Rome
- 4 nights in Assisi/breakfast and dinner included
- 1 night in San Giovanni/ breakfast and dinner included
- 4 nights in Rome/breakfast only
- All rooms are double occupancy; \$350 additional for a private room

- OMNIA Card for 3 consecutive days
- Papal Audience

Air Fare: Each pilgrim will book their own flights online. This will allow you the choice to collect or redeem travel points, purchase travel insurance, fly home with the group or continue on to another destination.

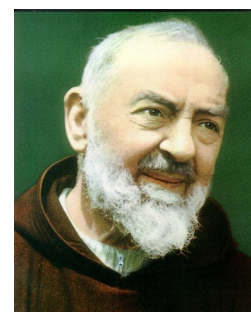
Not Included: Lunch each day, dinner 4 nights in Rome, tips for drivers, travel insurance, optional tours, taxi to the Rome Airport.

For More Information:

Julie Rasp, OFS

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ANNUAL FRATERNITY PICNIC

Sunday, May 19, 2019

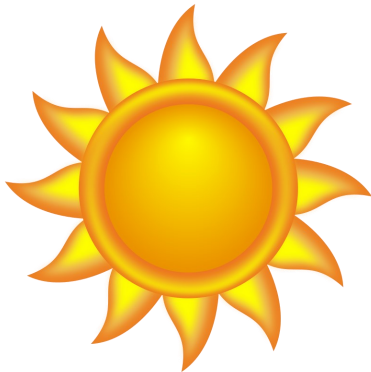
(3rd Sunday)

12:30-3:30 p.m.

The Lynch Home

129 Penningdon Drive

Landisville, PA



BRING YOUR FAMILY!

At the April gathering, you will have a chance to sign up to bring a dish to share at the picnic. There'll be BINGO, picnic foods, music, OFS trivia, and lots of fellowship and fun! We had a great time at last year's picnic, so mark your calendar now and plan to join us on Sunday, May 19 for this year's picnic!



Our Lady Queen of the Angels Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Lancaster, PA

established July 22, 1990

For information, contact Kelly Ann Lynch, Minister

(717)-538-6061 or lynchkellyann@aol.com