



IMMACULATA

Let us begin again, for as yet we have done nothing.

Newsletter of Immaculata Fraternity, Fredericksburg, Virginia



Edition 7. July 2019

St. Francis, from the Rule of 1221, Chapter 23.

Nothing, then, must keep us back, nothing separate us from him, nothing come between us and him. At all times and seasons, in every country and place, every day and all day, we must have a true and humble faith, and keep him in our hearts, where we must love, honor, adore, serve, praise and bless, glorify and acclaim, magnify and thank, the most high supreme and eternal God, Three and One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,



Creator of all and Savior of those who believe in him, who hope in him, and who love him; without beginning and without end, he is unchangeable, invisible, indescribable and ineffable, incomprehensible, unfathomable, blessed and worthy of all praise, glorious, exalted, sublime, most high, kind, lovable, delightful and utterly desirable beyond all else, for ever and ever.



July Feast Days and Holy Days for Secular Franciscans

1. Feast of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
2. Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady
4. 40 Martyrs of China, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order and Third Order Secular, d. 1900
5. Bl. Ignace Falzon, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1865
7. Bl. Oddin Barotto, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1400
8. St. Elisabeth of Portugal, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1336
14. St. Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1274
15. Bl. Bernard de Bade, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1458
17. Bl. Pierre De Foligno, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1614
26. St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Milestones

Fraternity Birthdays

Tina Held July 8

Ed Semeia July 20

Tony Gibert July 27



Helen Ann and John Wagner, OFS, will be hosting

WAGNERPALOOZA II!

featuring evening prayer, a potluck dinner, and karaoke. You'll laugh, you'll pray, you'll sing! (Hopefully, the singing won't make you laugh). The shindig happens on Saturday, August 17 from 3:30 PM and into the evening. All Immaculata OFSers and candidates are invited to the Wagner home for this evening of fun and fraternity. Please RSVP.



Minister Message

I grew up with little experience in religion. My parents came from Protestant backgrounds but we rarely went to Sunday celebrations. The exception came in California when my dad met a pastor of a United Church of Christ congregation. They became good friends through golf and common involvement in a local Bridge club.

And so, the Wallace family started going to "church." I liked it because they let me sing in the Sunday choir, and they had a Bible study for teens that was fun. My parents gave me a Bible and I started to read some of it. The pastor baptized me. A few months into our experiment with religion, my mother said something curious to me: "When you talk about Jesus, I don't think it's that important to believe that he was really the son of God." She thought of him as a very good man and a teacher of truth.

I wasn't a seasoned Christian or a theological dynamo, but I remember my Mom's statement as shocking. If we didn't believe Jesus was the Christ, what the heck were we doing on Sundays? It occurred to me that maybe I did believe Jesus was truly The Son.

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

St. Jude (Fredericksburg)

▶ Fridays – Exposition after 9:00 am Mass



We stopped going to Sunday services when Dad was transferred in his job to another town. I missed the little choir and Bible studies, but the feeling faded. The Lord called me to His Church about 20 years later, and my emerging faith from the earlier time was confirmed. Also, my mom came to believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God. She involved herself with a small Episcopal congregation after Dad died, and it became her spiritual home.

Why am I boring you with this anecdote from my life?

Maybe it's from thinking about Mom on my recent visit to western Washington for the interment of her ashes. It's a small story of faith "on the way." The story was mine, but also Mom's. At the interment, I read a short excerpt from a letter of St. Braulio, Bishop of Saragossa, including, "...without Christ, all of life is utter emptiness." I am comforted that Mom came to know her redeemer, and that He knocked on the door of my heart early on. With Job, I can say, "...the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

— Skip Wallace, OFS