



IMMACULATA

When I pray 'Hail Mary', the heavens smile, the angels rejoice, the earth is happy!

Newsletter of Immaculata Fraternity, Fredericksburg, Virginia



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Pictures of the July Meeting of Immaculata Fraternity at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Colonial Beach



Minister Message

Recently, I read an online piece by a columnist I enjoy, Dr. Anthony Esolen. His topic was about what ideas and doctrines unite Catholics in these interesting times. He said, "The Lord has willed that we come to knowledge of Him by means of other human beings in general, and by the Church specifically." I read it just a few days after our Fraternity's July meeting that was held at St. Elizabeth Church in Colonial Beach.

By circumstance, we had the meeting outdoors on a parish lawn during a warm yet comfortable day. Esolen's column reminded me of the feeling I had during that outdoor meeting, the members gathered around in a circle and sharing what we normally shared. It was amplified when we were joined by Fr. Francis de Rosa, Pastor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish. The feeling for me was simply, "It is good to be here." I was feeling thankful for these members I knew and loved: our little Franciscan family, united in common purpose and filial friendship.

Fr. de Rosa shared about his involvement and service to the 40 Days for Life organization. The whole scene brought home to me that we are all of us one body in one spirit, whether we are the Pope, an ordained, a religious or a layperson. Together, we are one. And it doesn't matter where we may be in that hierarchy, or what "office" we may have. After all, the Latin for office, officium, means service or duty. God put us together, in His Church, to love Him -- and to love and serve each other.

— Skip Wallace, OFS



Sept. Feast Days and Holy Days for Secular Franciscans

- 3. St. Pius X, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1914
- 4. St. Rose of Viterbo, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1252
- 8. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 10. Bl. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order and Franciscan Third Order Seculars, d. 1622-1632
- 14. Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 16. Bl. Roland de Medicis, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1386
- 17. Feast of the Stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi
- 19. Bl. Louis Alleman, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1450
- 21. Bl. Elizabeth Amerina, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1498
- 25. St. Nicholas de Flue, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1487
- 27. St. Elzear de Sabran, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1323
- 29. Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel
- 30. Bl. Charles de Blois, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1364

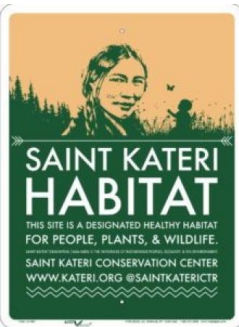


Milestones

Fraternity Birthdays

Maryann Heimgartner
Sept. 3

Maggie Fischer Sept. 29



The **Saint Kateri Conservation Center**, inspired by the short yet holy life of the "Lily of the Mohawks," was formed with a mission to promote Catholic faith, integral ecology, and life. Their work is wide-ranging, including setting up Catholic land trusts for parishes, religious communities, and sites of Catholic pilgrimages, and

coordinating conservation easements between governmental entities and localities. But one of their programs is more personally based -- the Saint Kateri Habitat. As they say on their website, "Anyone can transform a yard, garden, school, farm, parish, park, or religious community into a Saint Kateri Habitat."

The organization provides guidelines on setting up a Habitat. Again, from their website:

"Saint Kateri Habitats provide at least three of the following elements, plus one religious expression:

">Food, water, cover, and space for wildlife.

">Native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, such as milkweeds and goldenrods for monarch butterflies.

">Food, water, cover, and space for people, including vegetable gardens, flower gardens, community-supported gardens, indoor gardens, and farms....

">Sacred spaces for prayer and contemplation, including Mary gardens, prayer gardens, and rosary gardens. Any habitat can be treated as sacred, giving thanks to our Creator. At least one Catholic religious expression is required, which may include crosses...grottos, stations of the cross, ...or statues of Mary...or Saint Francis of Assisi.

Many more details are provided on the Conservation Center website: <https://www.kateri.org>. This is a marvelous way to express our praise for Holy Mother Earth as St. Francis says in his Canticum of the Creatures. St. Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us!

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



A simple and beautiful explanation by a Saint of what she does in Adoration:

"Whenever I go to the chapel, I put myself in the presence of our good Lord, and I say to Him, 'Lord, here I am. Tell me what You would have me do.' If He gives me some task, I am content and I thank Him. If He gives me nothing, I still thank Him since I do not deserve to receive anything more than that. And then, I tell God everything that is in my heart. I tell Him about my pains and my joys, and then I listen. If you listen, God will also speak to you, for with the good Lord, you have to both speak and listen. God always speaks to you when you approach Him plainly and simply."

— St. Catherine Labouré