



IMMACULATA

We are all creatures of one family.

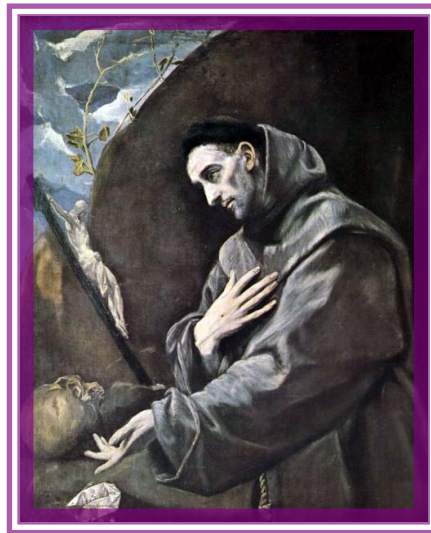
Newsletter of Immaculata Fraternity, Fredericksburg, Virginia



Edition 10. Oct. 2019

A prayer to our Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis, amiable and most beloved Father, I beseech you by the holy wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ, which were imprinted on your body, assist me to govern the five senses of my body according to the will and pleasure of almighty God. Obtain for me contrition and devotion, faith, hope and charity, patience, purity of body and soul, together with the grace of persevering in the service of our Lord, so that through this devotion I may learn to appreciate your spirit, holy Father St. Francis, and to follow your holy example, thus meriting your powerful intercession in life and in death. Amen.

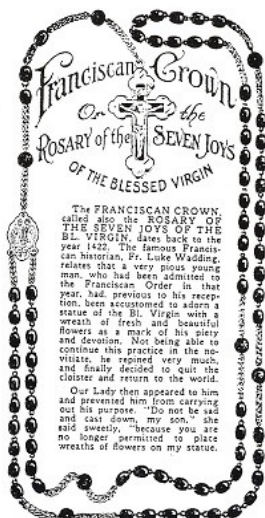


Francis — El Greco



October Feast Days and Holy Days for Secular Franciscans

3. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus, Patron of France; St. Marie-Joseph Tossello, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1880
4. Solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis, d. 1226, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and codbearers
5. Commemoration of the establishment of the 3 Orders
6. St. Marie-Francoise des Cinq Plaies, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular
7. Feast of the Holy Rosary
8. St. Brigitte de Suede, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1373
10. St. Francois Borgia, Priest, d. 1572;
11. Feast of the Divine Maternity of Our Lady
19. St. Pierre de Alcantara, Priest, d. 1512
20. Bl. Contardo Ferrini, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1902
21. Bl. Martyrs of Polonais, d. 1941-42
23. St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop, d. 1870



Consider the fragrant roses that make up the Franciscan Crown. It consists of seventy-two Hail Marys, originally said in honor of the seventy-two years which Our Lady spent on earth according to probable opinion and tradition... The seven joys are: *The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Adoration of the Magi, The Finding of Jesus in the Temple, The Resurrection of Our Lord, The Assumption and Coronation of Our Lady.* At each decade it is well to reflect on the sweet joy Our Lady experienced on those occasions. Said in this way, the rosary will be very pleasing to Mary, and you will learn to love it more and more. It is urgently recommended that all [Franciscans] recite it at least every Saturday. Make that a rule for yourself. You may then rest assured that you will participate in the joys of Our Lady in heaven.



Milestones

Fraternity Birthdays

Helen Ann Wagner
October 30



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



He who wants anything other than Christ does not know what he wants. *St. Philip Neri*



Guest column this month is by Theresa Wallace, Brothers and Sisters of Penance (Novice). And, yes, she's Skip's wife!

Sirach 2:1

My child, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of adversity. Cling to him, do not leave him, that you may prosper in your last days. Accept whatever happens to you; in periods of humiliation be patient.

As St. Francis named us brothers and sisters of penance, I can almost hear him reciting that verse from Sirach to those of us who approach him and ask if we can follow him on our journey to God. "Theresa, my child, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials..." Many would turn and walk away. But you and I don't. Why? Because we have faith that our trials can be our way to salvation if we nail them to the Cross of Christ - our trials can be salvific to others. Fast and pray. For what? For me and for you and for our family, friends, country, Church.

"Be sincere of heart and steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of adversity." I'm guilty! It's so easy to be a good Christian when things are going well in life. Praise God for his goodness to me! Just let a few trials and tribulations come and the gnashing, wailing, and begging for mercy begins. Look at the Cross. Gaze upon the scene. What a trial for Jesus' followers!

Look at Mary Magdalene for the next verse, "Cling to him, do not leave him, that you may prosper in your last days." The Magdalene, Jesus' dear friend (aren't we his dear friends too?) clung to the Cross and did not leave him. What a reward she had! She was the first to see Jesus raised from the dead! Our reward won't be an earthly reward if we "be sincere of heart and steadfast", "cling to Him and do not leave Him". It is our faith and our hope. It is what keeps us going day after day, trial after trial. Even though we may fall along the way, we have faith that He will provide that special someone to help us get up and continue along the way. Falling is humiliating. Being teased, put down, mocked, flipped off, bullied is humiliating.

"Accept whatever happens to you; in periods of humiliation be patient." Again, look at the Cross. Are we being crucified with the Lord today? As our Catholic faith is being mocked, oppressed, torn apart, saints are being martyred physically, mentally, and spiritually. "Accept whatever happens to you." Gaze at the Cross. Jesus didn't say no. Mother Mary didn't say no - a sword pierced her heart.

When we approach St. Francis and say we want to follow his footsteps on our journey to God, then we too must say YES, even if we have to say, "yes, teach me to say yes!" We too must learn to surrender to Jesus's sacred and merciful heart. Accept whatever happens to you - the good and the bad. Surrender it to God's will and blessing, allow Jesus to take care of it, and then "you may prosper in your last days" and enjoy the eternal reward of a good and faithful servant, a good and faithful friend.

May Mother Mary tutor you as she taught, cared for, and loved Our Lord.