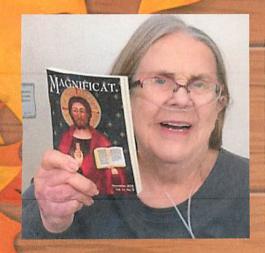


## HELEN GIBBONS HILLSTROM, REST IN PEACE



We bid a temporary farewell to our former Minister, Treasurer, and Council Member who devoted herself to the good of the Fraternity for many years. Helen passed from this life to the next on October 29th, 2019. This picture was taken just t wo weeks before on October 15th by Susan when she visited Helen while she was recuperating from several health issues. Helen was cheerful and full of life even in her weakened condition and wanted Susan to extend Helen's warmest greetings and love to our Fraternity members.

## From Helen Hilstron's children:

It's with a heavy heart that we are writing to tell you of the passing of our mother, Helen Gibbons Hillstrom. She was a loving mother and we will all miss her. A woman of iron, she rebounded from many health challenges in her life, including an increasing number in recent years. We were just about to transfer her to an assisted living wing of her community when she died during the early morning. She appeared to be at peace the weeks before she died. Helen was the last surviving child of Joseph E.and Mildred I. Gibbons. She was 90 years old and is survived by all her five children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Her passion and curiosity led her on many adventures in her life and we believe she bypassed assisted living because of her eagerness to move on to the adventure of heaven. I image Dad was at the gate welcoming her home. It meant a great deal to Helen to be in the community of the St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Yours truly,

Mary, Bill, Paul, Anne and Mimi
Paul Hillstrom can be reached at 301-648-7181.

#### **Details:**

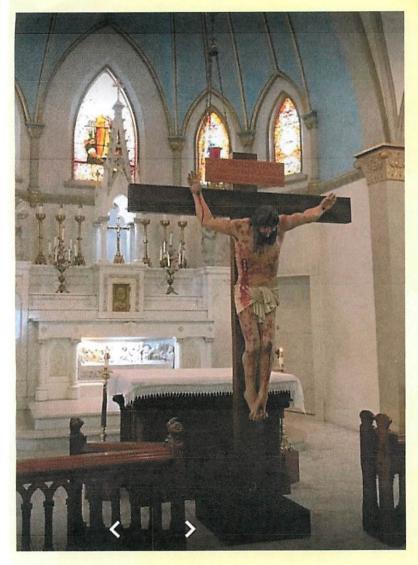
The Funeral is at 10:30 am on Friday, November 8th at St Mary's Catholic Church, 520 Veirs Mill Rd, Rockville MD.

The visitation/viewing is the proceeding evening, Thursday, Nov 7th, from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Pumphrey's Funeral Home, located at 300 W. Montgomery Ave, Rockville MD.

Additional information may be found at www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com



## PILGRIMAGE & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION TRIP TO HARPERS FERRY W. VA.



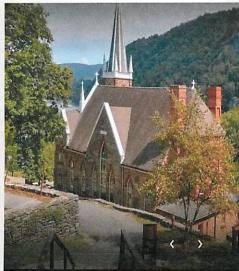
The historic mission church of St. Peter's has a treasure in it worth going far further to than Harpers Ferry. The corpus of Our Lord Jesus Christ on this beautiful crucifix is one of only three in the world which were made by scientists at the Vatican as a 3D image from the Shroud of Turin. To look upon the suffering face of Our Lord is an experience that will last you a lifetime

Our pilgrimage and fun trip to Harpers Ferry for their Olde Tyme Christmas Celebration will be Saturday December 14th. We will meet at 10:30 at St Peters Church to venerate the Crucifix which has a corpus of Our Lord build as a 3 D image from the Shroud of Turin. It is very moving. The town has many fun things to do that day but bring your walking shoes! Try to park at the Church. Grandkids welcome...f you can keep up with them on the hills! LOL!

https://www.harpersferryotc.com/ saturday-december-14

It is very hilly in Harpers Ferry and if you are at all unsteady on your feet, you might want to bring a cane. If you are able to park in the church parking lot, it is easy to get into the church. Off- site public parking and a shuttle service available to the main commercial area.







## PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

## BY

## Fr Michael Briese

Our Father in heaven, we pray that You will continue to watch over, guide and protect our priests and bishops. We ask You, dear Lord, to hear their prayers, the cries of their hearts and their heartfelt desires to more fully grasp Your hands. You are our Good Shepherd. You, Lord, humbly walk in the company of Your priests. We give thanks to You and we ask You, O Lord, to awaken our lives and bless us with greater faith, greater hope and greater love. We plead that You will always protect us from the snares of the wicked, temptations from fools, and the countless sins of which we ourselves are quite capable. Lord, we give You praise for Your love, mercy, forgiveness and countless blessings. You, Lord, are our true Creator. All Glory and Honor is Your's as we give thanks and praise to You, dear Lord. Dearly beloved Father, Savior and Holy Spirit, in humble gratitude and deep awe, we give thanks to You for our holy priesthood. We give praise to You who live and reign forever and ever. AMEN.

## PRAYER FOR VETERANS

## By Father Michael Briese

Lord, we ask You to bring healing, renewal and encouragement to our Veterans. They have spent precious parts of their lives striving to protect our nation, our homeland and our democratic way of life. We give thanks for all our veterans. They have given in ways immeasurable and invaluable; ways which cannot be adequately paid for. We most especially, give pause and prayer to those who have been injured or maimed in war. May our nation and its peoples always be there to serve and assist those who have suffered for us. Lastly, in deep awe, we give God our heartfelt thanks for those who gave the greatest sacrifice...their lives... in the name of our great country. With all the patriots our one nation under God remains indivisible with justice for all. Lord, again, we give thanks to You and all of our Veterans. AMEN

## Greetings,

I wasn't sure what to write about.... Then I saw the Mary's Page Design, and, voila!, problem solved! First, I would like to thank the current council for all of their hard work, dedication and prayerfulness. Genie, our vice-minister, Marilyn, our Secretary, Carmencita, our Treasurer, Tom, our Formation Director, and Mary, Lilian and Peggy, our counselors, have each, without exception, done a stellar job and I thank them.

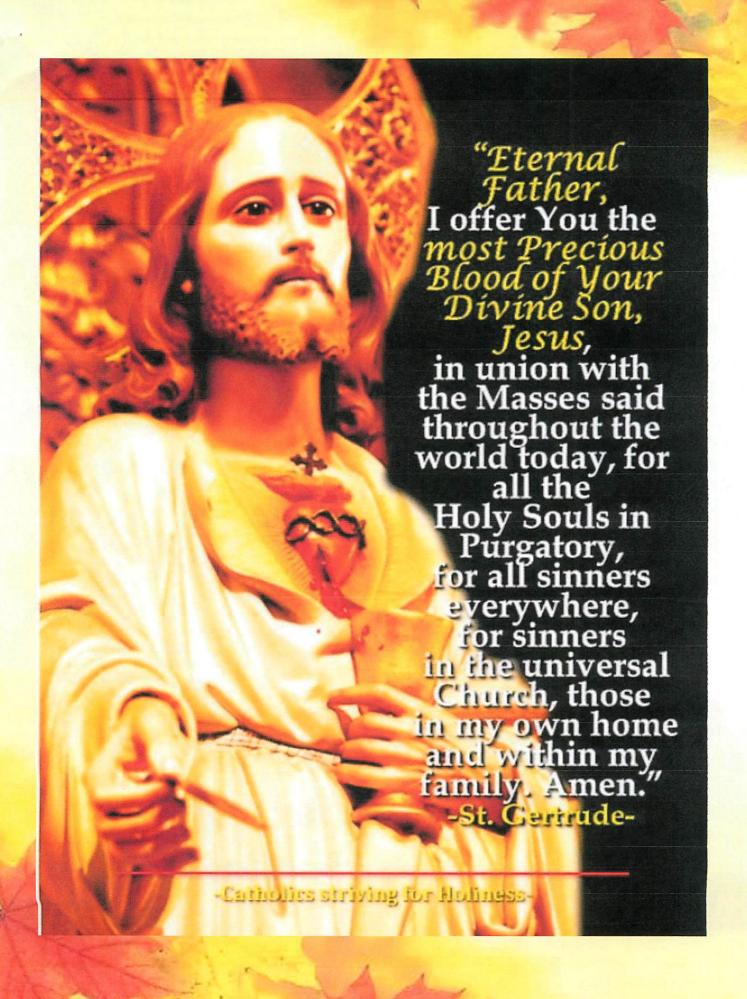
Giving Thanks To God is such a supremely just, loving, humble and trusting act that it is important to begin and end out day with Acts of Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. Every day, we have food, clothes, a home, relatives and friends and JESUS is always waiting for us with open arms in our nearby churches and in Heaven.

Why can it be so easy to forget to be truly THANKFUL? have to admit that I start and end many of my days with worries and supplications filled with doubt and some anxieties. How wrong that is and how far away from the truch of OUR GOOD SHEPHERD's loving care for us! When I take the time to remember this, I know that with earnest prayers, one can lift up the most serious worries to the LORD and that peace, trust and thanksgiving will flow from the heart. I have found that listening to Gregorian Chants while I pray and praying with youtube "Catholic Deliverance" prayers can also help bring peace and a thankful heart. Simple remembering of blessings and making loving acts of trust and acceptance are also grace-filled.

I am challenging myself to start my day with TRUST IN GOD as befits our most merciful GOD, THANKSGIVING to a GOD who loves us and pays infinitely close and loving attention to us, and ACCEPTANCE OF HIS HOLY WILL as I try to embrace the Cross God has chosen for me and my loved ones. I hope you follow this path of faith and peace ever more deeply also.

Lets vigilantly remember the souls in purgatory. Pray for them and ask them for prayers too. They can not pray for themselves but they can pray for us.

BLESSING to you all, Thank you for letting me be Minister this past 3 years. It has been an honor and a blessing. Susan



# FROM our Spiritual Assistant, Michael Huether

The Franciscan Friars Had Their Hand In The First Thanksgiving



Artist's rendition of Squanto

As we all come to celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving later on this month. I thought I would see what I could find when I googled, "Franciscan Thanksgiving". Now our Franciscan Family has had a part very many thinks outside of Church history as well as within, and I found that also includes that first Thanksgiving celebration between the first pilgrims from England and the native Americans. Most of us both know and envision this event so well. The pilgrims came ashore to America at Plymouth Rock, befriended the Native Americans there who taught the pilgrims how to be agriculturalists and grow their food. Then the pilgrims with this food prepared a feast and invited the Native Americas out of appreciation and thanksgiving to God for the newly-learned knowhow for such a bounty.

But an integral part of this story is always overlooked. Among the crowd of pilgrims and Native-Americans, there was one who was mainly responsible for this event. He was an English-speaking Native American by the name of SQUANTO. It was Squanto who lead the Native-Americans on the task of instructing the pilgrims in the agricultural techniques of growing the foods consumed at the first Thanksgiving feast. This was because he could speak fluent enough English to translate and was also educated in the Catholic faith and Franciscan charism.

In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, Squanto's tribe contacted the earliest English colonists. The colonists captured Squanto and taught him the English language so he could be an interpreter for them. However, in 1614, the famous Captain John Smith(we remember him as the one who courted Pocahontas) was

transporting Squanto, when one of his lieutenants, Thomas Hunt, kidnapped Squanto. Hunt took Squanto to Spain to sell him off as a slave. However, some Franciscan Friars(They were supposedly Capulchins but this is not certain) bargained with Hunt and had Squanto released to them. The friars educated Squanto in the Catholic faith with an influence in the Franciscan charism, then baptiz.ed him. In 1619, Squanto returned home on a ship lead by John Smith, but upon arrival, he found that most of his tribe had died of the plague about a year prior.

God had both prepared and put him in place for what we know had happened next. The following year of 1620 came and the pilgrims arrived: the English colonists hoping to build a new religious community split from the Church of England. They needed instruction on how to survive and prosper in this new rugged country later to be called America, having little food with them. So there was Squanto ready to serve, speaking fluent English and capable of rendering great instructional service to the pilgrims in both the Catholic and Franciscan tradition. The pilgrims looked upon him as a miracle and God-send. Squanto became an important part of these new settler's community. The pilgrims even had to step in to save him when he was once again kidnapped by another Native-American tribe.

Squanto's legacy, however, was short-lived. Within two years of the Pilgrim's landing, he became ill and died. So, we thank and bless him for his short but serviceable life those who first came and started this great country of ours today!

As we gather this Thanksgiving with our family and friends, let us remember those blessings our Lord has given to us such as Squanto, great and small, and pray together a prayer of Thanksgiving written by our Father Francis:

You are holy, Lord the only God.

And your deeds are wonderful.

You are strong. You are great. You are the Most High. You are Almighty.

You, Holy Father, are king of Heaven and Earth.

You are Three and One, Lord God, all good.

You are Good, all good, supreme Good, Lord God, Living and true.

You are Love. You are Wisdom. You are humility. You are endurance.

You are rest. You are peace. You are joy and gladness.

You are justice and moderation.

You are all our riches, and you suffice for us.

You are beauty. You are gentleness.

You are our protector. You are our guardian and defender.

You are our courage. You are our haven and our hope.

You are our faith, our great consolation.

You are our eternal life, Great and Wonderful Lord, God Almighty, Merciful Savior. Amen

MIKE

## **GOLDEN ROSES**

## By Father Michael Briese

Lord, You blessed me with Your greatest gift---that of human life! Dear Lord, Your prophets assure humanity and stir our hearts and minds with Your countless blessings. Lord, Your divinely inspired and prayerful words reassure me, and hopefully all peoples, that my life and every human life is a holy life, a sacred life and a precious life. Lord, You breathed into me and all humanity a lifetime of countless breaths, an abundance of Your holy moments, holy hours, holy days, holy seasons and holy years. My own human life was made holy at conception, solely because You, dear Lord, granted me this most precious gift of human life. Thanks be to You, O Lord, my God. Holy are You, dear Lord. Holy are You.

Time and again You, dear Lord granted me a Golden Rose. Throughout my lifetime, I have discovered this lifelong created bouquet of Your divine gifts. Your Golden Roses include, but are not limited to my discovery, greater awareness and deeper heartfelt understanding that each Golden Rose represents You and Your infinite divine mercy, compassion and love. Lord, I cry within the very depths of my being when I realize it was You, who granted unto me, Your unworthy servant, a lifetime of greater faith, greater hope and greater love.

O Lord, my God, why have You blessed me? What have I done to be worthy of You? Dear Lord, I humbly accept Your immense love, which is best exemplified by Your willingness to send forth Your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, whose public suffering and death on that ancient Cross, when followed by His Resurrection, fulfilled the prophetic words foretold by the ancient prophets. Our Father in heaven, holy are You, our one true and dearly beloved Creator. Lord, You sent forth the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to bring rest, stillness and spiritual presence within the silence of my poor, broken and imperfect human heart. Lord, over all these passing years, You have blessed my life with an abundance of Golden Roses. Blessed are You, O Lord, our God. Thanks be to You, dear Lord. AMEN.

## GOD of THE LIVING

## From the pen of Genie Dutton

Moses called out, "Lord, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive". Our ancient Roman Catholic Faith sustains this ancient understanding that indeed our God has since the beginning of human history been the God whose infinite and immeasurable Divine Love was exemplified at that first holy moment when God breathed a lifetime into Adam and then Eve...all men and women. God's immense love always has been, is now and forever shall be freely granted unto humanity. Why? Solely because God, the Creator of humanity wills that His Love shall always exist, prevail and exemplify His own invitation to all past generations, today's generations and the generations to come.

God's Divine Mercy, Divine Justice and Divine Love can, at best, be imitated by you, me and all humanity. Though every person, regardless of their station in life, can only seek to imitate the God of Moses, Isaac and Jacob. We cannot be the same as God. However, God sustains human history precisely because our Divine Lover asks you, me and every human being to imitate His Divine Love. You can do this, as can I, and every human being. The choices to do so are choices we, God's people will make. Simply ask, who is your god this day and throughout you past and passing daily life? Is your god, our one true and full God, our Creator the true Divine, the One who rests within the very depth of your being? Or, have you made room for some man made god? To who is your heart a shelter? The God of Moses or some sort of other, more modern god?

Only you can truthfully and more fully answer the above questions. But! You owe yourself truth! And you get today and maybe tomorrow, or a long future to ask, address and truthfully and honestly answer this profound question. Our beloved Creator invites you, me and all His peoples to come closer, draw near and to spend some time in His company. There you can more fully discover, grasp and grow into a faith-filled modern disciple of Christ; a person whose heart is afire with the love only God can give. Your open heart, mind and spirit will enable you to more fully realize and love He Who Is and Always Will Be. Learn from the ancients such as Moses, Isaac and Jacob. Learn from the Holy Apostles, Mary, the countless early martyrs, and even from your own elders or others whose lives exemplified their strong faith. Our dear Lord and Savior cries out to you. Hear our beloved Lord's Divine invitation and answer Him. May our good Lord bless you now and forever. AMEN.