

ST MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY  
ORDER OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN  
THE ANGELUS \* APRIL 19, 2020



*He isn't here!  
He is risen!*

Luke 24:6

**Minister: Susan Jamison**  
**Vice-Minister: Sonia Bernardo**  
**Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether - Formation Director: Tom McGrath**  
**Secretary: Portia - Treasurer: Carmencita Fiesta**  
**Counselors: Lilian Soriano, Mary Badjo & Irma Jean-Baptiste**  
**The Angelus: Mary Badjo & Susan Jamison**





The background features a textured, light-colored paper with faint floral patterns. On the left side, there are several flowers: three white daisies with yellow centers at the top, a green tulip bud in the middle, and a yellow tulip in bloom at the bottom. The text is centered and reads:

**WE WILL HAVE A REMOTE ACCESS  
APRIL FRATERNTY MEEEEING ON DIVINE  
MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 19th, starting at 1 PM  
(social starts at 12:30). Please check your email nearer to that date  
for further instructions. The Meeting will feature talks on our current  
struggles and we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and  
Christian Prayer.**

**HUGE SHOUT OUT OF THANKS  
TO MICHAEL OLIVER**  
for organizing and running our daily 3pm confer-  
ence call prayer group. It is truly wonderful and very consoling to pray  
every day together. We pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for those suf-  
fering with the coronavirus, for those who have died and for an end to  
the pandemic. We pray the Rosary for our personal intentions, the  
retoration of Christian families and all those souls who have died or  
are dying that day.

**To join us, please call in around 2:55 any day. It starts at  
3 pm so it is good to get on the call before then. The telephone  
number is 978 990 5000 , and the code is  
263279#. Please call Susan if you have problems.**

**MAY YOUR HOLY WEEK BE BLESSED.  
HAPPY EASTER!**



The background of the page is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly stone or paper, with a faint, repeating watermark of the word "KROON". On the left side, there are several flowers: three white daisies with yellow centers at the top, a green tulip bud in the middle, and a yellow daffodil at the bottom. The text is arranged in a column on the right side of the page.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **APRIL BIRTHDAYS!**

**2- John Doherty**  
**11 – Rose Mary Mazzaglia**  
**15 – Dick Schaefer**  
**18 – Portia Fiesta**  
**26 – Mary Badjo**  
**29 – Sonia Bernardo**

## **PRAYERS**

**Alfio Mazzaglia – Had surgery for bladder cancer, but not invasive. Is going through chemo treatment now. They need prayers for a friend's daughter with stage 4 cancer.**

**Continue prayers for Alina's loss of her husband and Lilian's loss of a daughter and son.**

**Pray for Rose Lawrence in Pa. suffering with dementia.**

**Tap Nguyen is due to return in April from Vietnam or health issues and visits with his sister.**

**Continue prayers for Carol Smith's recovery and for Jim Wall.**

**Pray for Hazel's husband suffering with cancer.**

**Please pray we and our families are safe from the coronavirus.**

## Minister' s Message,

Greetings! I hope and pray you and your families are all well and stay well during the coronavirus pandemic. Things will probably get a lot worse before they gets better, without an intervening act of God which we all pray for, and we all have to adjust to a new and challenging normal. We are so blessed to have FAITH in GOD that He is walking with us, guiding us and protecting our hearts and souls now as always. FAITH that He has a plan for our lives that will end one day in PEACE, JOY, AND ETERNAL HAPPINESS.

The truth is that WE WERE CHOSEN BY GOD TO LIVE IN THIS PARTICULAR TIME and each of us has a special MISSION to PRAY FOR, CONSOLE and ENCOURAGE OTHERS, FAST as we can , SERVE others, and SUFFER what the Lord allows each of us to suffer.

Yes we will see extraordinary suffering in this time, in dying, sickness, and finances. It is so important to keep our perspective. Our Lady of Ephesus, in a vision, imparted a special message to a lady who visiting her Shrine there in Turkey. The lady was on a pilgrimage to the Shrine to pray for her two nephews, one born with cerebral palsy and one with down syndrome. Our Lady communicated this to her: ***“We love them, dear. Why, the reward for suffering is so great that even if you were told you wouldn't know. Your minds aren't meant to know. This life is no more than a short wave of the hand with no more than a veil between.”***

Yes, suffering is hard but so valuable. This is the particular message of Christ to us during HOLY WEEK when we try to grasp a little bit how much He suffered to SAVE US. TO REDEEM US. JESUS told us to take up our own cross and follow Him. Now more than most times in our lives this message must take its root deeply in our hearts, minds and souls.

It is easy to fall into fear about getting the virus. We will probably all have to grapple with this. The CHALLENGE is to see this as an OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME to make a positive difference in our world of lost souls. You can't have a good thought and a bad thought at the same exact second so lets concentrate on being joyful in the Lord, concerned for the sick, impoverished and dying, and grateful for all the blessings God has granted us in our lives, even now. Let us do all we can to help the dying be saved with our prayers, fasting and sacrifices and console the sorrowing. I am not very good at fasting but I am trying. It is also a good time to remember the Little Flower who had a joyful confidence that the smallest acts of love and trust on her part were absolutely treasured and loved by OUR GOOD LORD.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
**Submitted by Sonia:**

**FOR OUR LENTEN JOURNEY on GOOD FRIDAY our Fraternity will pray together the Stations of the Cross using the biblically rich booklet, titled The Stations of the Cross By His Holiness Saint John Paul II. by Father Joseph Champlin.**

**To pray with us, please call our Prayer Conference Call number at 2:55 PM on Good Friday: (978 990 5000) then enter the code number 563579#.**

**We will also pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.**

**This booklet may be obtained on Amazon (kindle version is only 99 cents). We may be emailing you a downloaded copy of the book prior to Good Friday. It is not essential that you have a copy of the Stations in order to join us.**

**The author has adapted, for both public and private use St John Paul II's version of this devotion of praying the Stations of the Cross. He used the passion narratives as found in the Gospels of Mark, Luke and John. He devised the format, composed of the reflections by featuring a short passage from the gospel and selected portions from different psalms as prayer response for each station.**

**The introduction of this booklet goes back to Good Friday in 1991 :**

**IN THE ROMAN COLLOSEUM, SAINT JOHN PAUL II CREATED NEW STATIONS OF THE CROSS. HE ALTERED THE FOURTEENTH TRADITIONAL STATION AND ADDED A FIFTEENTH STATION ON THE RESURRECTION. SOME OF THE TRADITIONAL ONES WERE KEPT WHILE OTHERS WERE DROPPED AND NEW ONES WERE INSERTED. ALL OF THE STATIONS HIS HOLINESS USED WERE BASED ON INCIDENTS IN THE GOSPELS OF MARK, LUKE AND JOHN. IN PARISH CHURCHES THAT HAVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS WHICH USE THE TRADITIONAL VERSION OF THIS TRADITION, THEY COULD USE THE ALTAR OR TABERNACLE FOR THE FIFTEENTH STATION.**

**In this booklet there is a hymn with a verse for each station to be sung to the melody of the ancient and customary *Sabat Mater*.**

## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

April, 2020

Starting with this month for the next four months, I will be sharing with you my writings from my spiritual assistant training on Chapter eleven of "The Major Life of St. Francis of Assisi" by St. Bonaventure. This chapter addresses his understanding of sacred scripture and the spirit of prophecy.

### Francis' Grasp of Sacred Scripture and His Spirit of Prophecy

Francis never studied Scripture. His prayer life and practice of virtue sharpened his spiritual insight and knowledge, giving him the intellect and the ability to speak scholarly of Scripture. He possessed astounding genius by his affective love of God and was able to rate among the theologians of his time. He was able to commit to memory all that he was able to understand of sacred books by continuous meditation on them.

When asked by his friars whether he would permit the educated men entering the order to continue studies of Scripture, he replied. "I do not mind, provided that they do not forsake prayer after the example of Christ who prayed more than He studied. They should study for the purpose of practicing what they learn, encouraging others to do the same." He went on to say that the friars should be true disciples of the Gospel, progressing in knowledge but growing in simplicity such as our Lord was simple in manner but cunning in wit.

St. Francis was able to clearly address a number of difficult questions presented to him by a religious doctor of theology from Siena. The theologian said of him, "His theology soars aloft on the wings of purity and contemplation like an eagle in full flight while our learning crawls on the ground." Francis was able to address questions too difficult for others even though he had no teaching experience but had no lack of knowledge. He was just enlightened by God to understand Scripture and to practice their contents in the most effective way with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Francis also had the ability to prophecy so well that he could foretell the future, account for what went on in his absence, and even be present to those who were far away. He was able to perceive the results of the war of the Christian armies besieging Damietta. He knew it would result in defeat of the Christians if they waged battle. He feared of being called a fool if he advised them not to fight. His companions told him not to be concerned with being called a fool: he should go with his conscience, regarding God more than humans. Francis was torn between risking being criticized for advising against battle and having his conscience bother him over saying nothing. Unfortunately, when Francis did overcome the fear of criticism, and advised the army not to fight, they ridiculed him ignoring his advice. When they went to battle, the army lost 6000 men. They soon realized that they were the fools who scorned the beggar's wisdom. This brought to light the verse from the book of Sirach: "There are times when a man of piety sees truth more clearly than seven sentinels high in a watch tower." (Sirach 37:18)

May all of you and your families have a very happy, blessed, and joyous time as you celebrate the feast of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ and our Redemption from sin and evil this Easter!

Mike



LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING  
MARCH FEAST DAYS!

St. Francis Of Paola – April 2

St. Francis of Paola, with two other followers started the Hermits of Saint Francis in 1436 which would later become known as the Minim Friars, “least of all the faithful”. St. Francis of Paola lived a life of strict penances and fasting. St. Francis had been ill as a child and his parents prayed to St. Francis of Assisi to obtain a cure and promised that if cured he would spend one year living with Franciscan Friars when he was older. He was cured. At the age of 13, he had a vision of a Franciscan Friar who directed him enter a particular Franciscan Friary, which he did for one year, followed by years of hermit solitude and prayer before starting the Hermits of St. Francis hermitage. His pious, prayerful, humble life of penance was blessed with gifts of miracles and prophecies. He is a powerful intercessor.



St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen - April 24

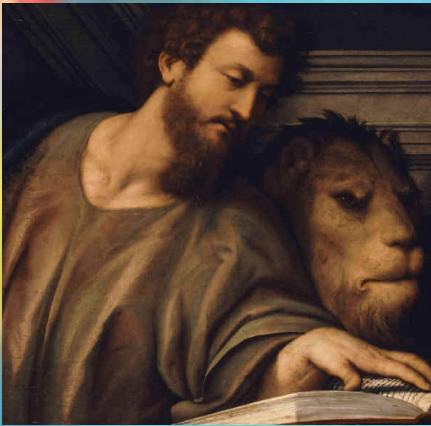


Saint Fidelis (1577 – 1622) was born in Germany and was pious from his early years. For some years he practiced law in France and bore the nickname of “Lawyer For The Poor” because of his great efforts to defend and promote the rights of the poor people in his area. He found the legal profession to be corrupt and rife with evil and he left it to join his brother as a Capuchin Friar. He was given the name of “Fidelis” which means “Faithful” in Latin by his guardian at his profession on October 4, 1612 and went on to become a priest. During a severe epidemic, he cared for and cured many sick soldiers. He was so fantastic a preacher, that he was martyred by certain Calvinists who were irate at the success of his preaching. St. Fidelis prophesied his death and spoke joyfully about it. After six months, his body was found to be incorrupt. Notably, the protestant minister who was involved in the murder later converted to Catholicism.



LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING  
APRIL FEAST DAYS!

**St. Mark, the evangelist -- April 25**



Saint Mark, whom we commemorate today, was one of the most significant of the many joiners who uprooted themselves to join Peter in his dangerous adventure of founding the Church. Nothing is known for certain of Mark's origins or his youth. He is not mentioned in the Gospel that bears his name and only the faintest biographical sketch is possible. What is known is that Mark left his homeland in Palestine to follow first Saint Paul, and later, Saint Peter. Mark sailed dangerous seas in primitive boats. He walked long stretches through desolate lands. He tried to convince hardened pagans and skeptical Romans that the Gospel message was true. The words of the Acts of the Apostles, the letters of Saint Paul, and the

First Letter of Saint Peter all put dots on the large map of Mark's life. Many blank spaces, however, still lay in between. Mark is traveling with Paul in Asia Minor, then he's with Barnabas on a boat over here, then he's with someone else over there, and then he disappears for a number of years. The scattered evidence ends, however, with clear testimony that Mark joined Peter in Rome. In Peter's first letter, written from the city of his death to the Church in Asia Minor, Pope Peter sends greetings on Mark's behalf and refers to him as "my son" (1 Peter 5:13).

Saint Mark is, of course, best known as the author of a Gospel. Like Saint Luke and Saint Paul, he was not one of the Twelve Apostles and so likely never met Jesus Christ in person. Scholars believe that the Gospel of Saint Mark relates the experiences of Saint Peter, Mark's mentor.

**St. Catheriene de Sienna – April 29**

St. Catherine's feast day is April 29, she is the patroness against fire, illness, the United States, Italy, miscarriages, people ridiculed for their faith, sexual temptation, and nurses. St. Catherine of Siena was born during the outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347. Saint Catherine was born the twenty-fourth of twenty-five children in a pious family imbued with the love of God.

Her parents wished her to marry but she preferred to live only for Christ. In rebellion,

she cut off her one attractive feature: her beautiful hair, so no suitors would pursue her. Furious, her mother forced her to be the maid to the family for some years—a life she embraced wholeheartedly to serve to the Lord. She went for true "gold" early in life. She practiced extreme penances, eating only bread and raw vegetables and drinking only water for her entire adult life. She conversed with God, experienced ecstasies and visions, and dictated hundreds of letters and books and reflections filled with the most profound spiritual and theological insights. In 1970 she was the first layperson, and first woman, to be made a Doctor of the Church, in recognition of her profound mystical theology. Catherine died at the age of thirty-three, worn out by pen-





Turning back to God is the essence of the penitential spirituality that is embodied in the OFS rule. What does our penitential spirituality entail?

In her article, "Reclaiming Penitential Spirituality for the 21st Century," Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF, comments.

The fundamental value of penitential spirituality is integral to the continued development of Franciscan life and spirituality. The penitential life is not a matter of "doing penance" or accomplishing penitential acts, rather it is the **openness to grow, to be shaped, and formed in a life** that reflects the dynamic movement and **presence of Christ within.**

*Metanoia* is not something we do; it is **God's gracious gift.** Our participation in *Metanoia* depends on our capacity to be receptive, bent low in prayerful and contemplative love, to dwell in Christ, and with Christ live in bountiful love and service to others.

*I was downsizing,  
and came across this.*

***Blessings, Genie***





# *... a message from Carmencita*

*...when you meet together there must be one petition, one mind,  
one hope in love and in holy joy, for Jesus Christ is one and perfect  
before all else."*

*St. Ignatius of Antioch to the Magnesians*



**Resurrexit Sicut Dixit,  
Alleluia!**

**The Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province**  
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1-800-848-4538

[www.stanthonysguild.org](http://www.stanthonysguild.org)

[www.fmunion.org](http://www.fmunion.org)

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[www.thefranciscanstore.org](http://www.thefranciscanstore.org)

[www.FriarWorks.org](http://www.FriarWorks.org)





## Holy Saturday & The Easter Vigil

**Today's Thought** The ritual of the Easter Vigil helps us feel the darkness of sin and how it has been dispelled by the resurrection of Jesus!

**In the Easter Proclamation, all creation is commanded to rejoice in the salvation and new life won by Jesus Christ!**

***Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne!***

***Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!  
Darkness vanishes forever!***

## Easter Sunday

**Today's Thought** Everything in the lives of the apostles changed forever when they met the resurrected Jesus face to face!

**What happens in our lives when we meet Jesus face-to-face everyday in the faces and lives of all those we encounter each day? He is alive in every person, we only need to look for His face in the face of others.**

**Today's Prayer, Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**





## Lazarus Saturday

Today's Thought Lazarus Saturday is a day that helps us see the light of the Resurrection begin to dawn, even as the horrific days of suffering and betrayal begin. We need to look for those "Lazarus moments" in our own lives.

Today's Prayer "We adore you O Christ and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world".

## Palm Sunday

Today's Thought Jesus rode into Jerusalem as a King, but later that week he would suffer a humiliating death. How often have we felt "on top of the world" and then something happens and it all disappears. Do we lose faith because we have lost something or do we remember Job's quote - "if we accept good things from God why not the bad?"

Today's Prayer "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

### MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Today's Thought Sometimes money gets in the way of true religion and often times disrupts our personal relationships. Especially today, consider how sometimes we can get obsessed with money. Whenever money - either having it or not having enough of it - becomes too central to our daily thoughts, we need to remember this Monday event.

Today's Prayer "We adore you O Christ and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world".

### TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Today's Thought Have you ever felt betrayed? Have you ever had a dear friend or loved one turn their back on you or betray a confidence or not stand up for you in a conflict or come to your aid when you needed help? Most of us have felt the sting of human betrayal, or felt abandoned by someone we felt would never leave us. Heret we can see Jesus feel the same emotions and deep sense of loss and unfaithfulness that we feel. This is why Jesus understands us so well, because he went through the same human situations that we do, and tha?s why it is so easy to go to Him in our deepest need — Jesus has been through it all He understands us completely.





## SPY WEDNESDAY

Today's Prayer Psalm 68 is read this day, and has a beautiful quote that helps us understand the Sacred Heart of Jesus during these awful times. "Their taunts have broken my heart; I have reached the end of my strength." We can see Jesus here with a broken heart. Soon almost everyone will betray Him and leave Him to suffer and die alone. How often have you had your heart broken and felt so alone in relationships or life problems? As difficult as it can be to believe when we are deep within these awful times in our lives, Jesus is there with us, guiding us and loving us through every hardship we face. He understands He's been through it all.

Today's Prayer We adore you o Christ and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world"

## Holy Thursday

Today's Thought But there is another lesson to be learned on this holy night. The church does not use the Gospel passage about the institution of the Eucharist for today's Mass, but rather the passage about the washing of the feet. It is in this profound gesture of "God bending down to us" that we see and feel the total love of God for each of us, and then the "mandatum" or command that we go out and do the same — stretch and love others totally like Jesus did. And sometimes stretching out or reaching out to others is not an easy task, but an integral part of the Christian life.

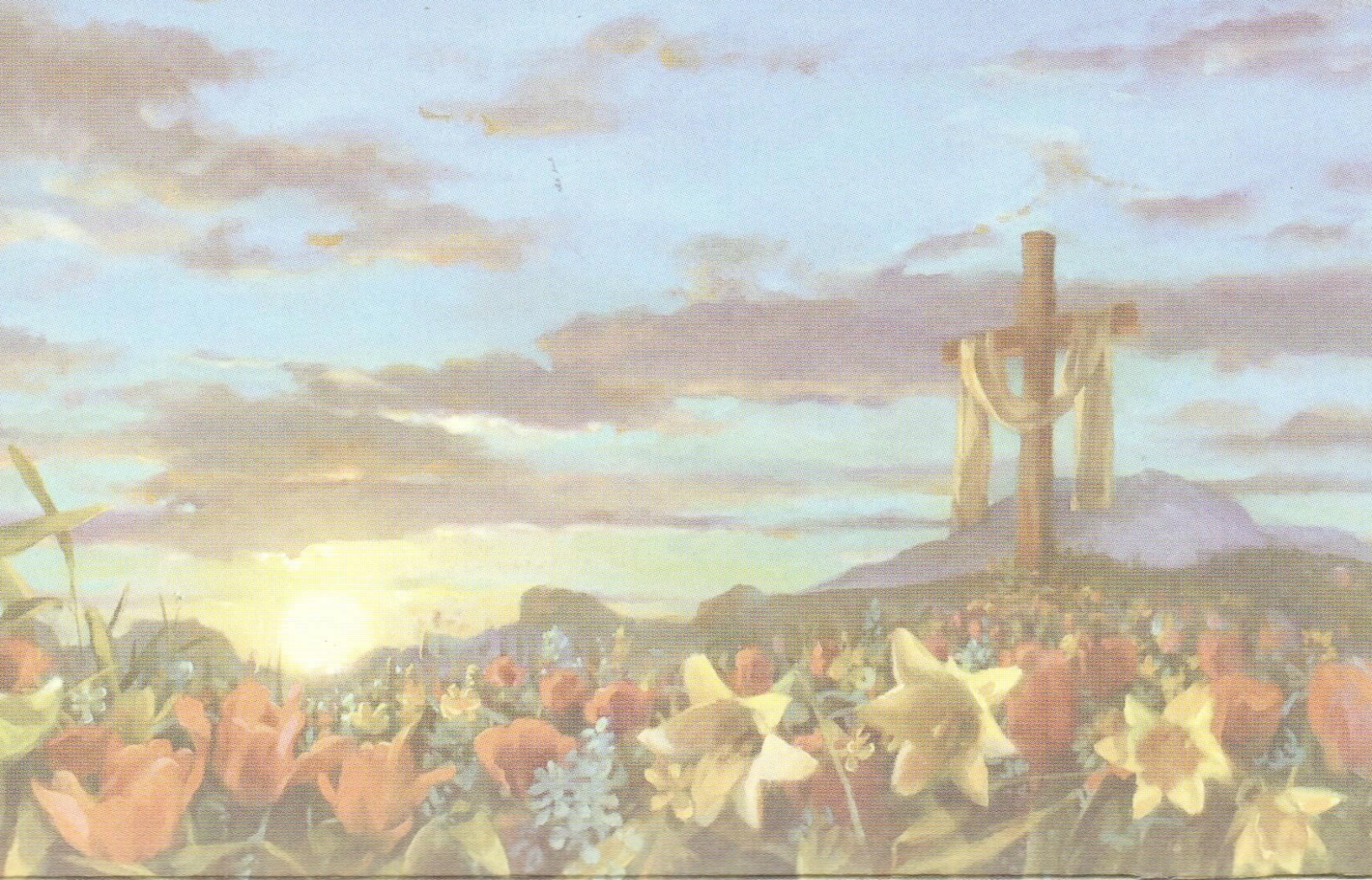
Today's Prayer "When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory".

## Good Friday

Today's Thought There is so much happening today: betrayal, suffering, loneliness, scourging, crucifixion, and death, deep grief. And after all this suffering, Jesus simply hands His spirit over to God. As they say, "Let go and let God." How often we try and control everything in our lives - even the people in our lives. One of the great lessons learned on Good Friday is for us to let go of control and trust in God in all things. Into your hands, Father, I commend my life and all my attempts at control of my life and the lives of others. Trusting in God is very difficult, and yet it is the only way to find true freedom in life and in death.

Today's Prayer "Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory."





*He has risen as He said, Alleluia!*

Many blessings for a joyful and very Happy Easter  
to you and all those you love!

Fr. David Convertino, O.F.M. & The Franciscan Friars



**Fair Share assessment for  
Professed active members is  
raised by \$10.00 and candidates.**

**For the Excused Professed  
members remains the same.**

**In lieu of this, which was voted  
at Chapters Ministers meeting,  
our Fraternity is asking for all  
Brothers and Sisters to offer  
a contribution according to your  
means.(Rule25)**

**Your generosity and kind support  
is deeply appreciated  
Reported by  
Carmencita Fiesta OFS, Treasurer**

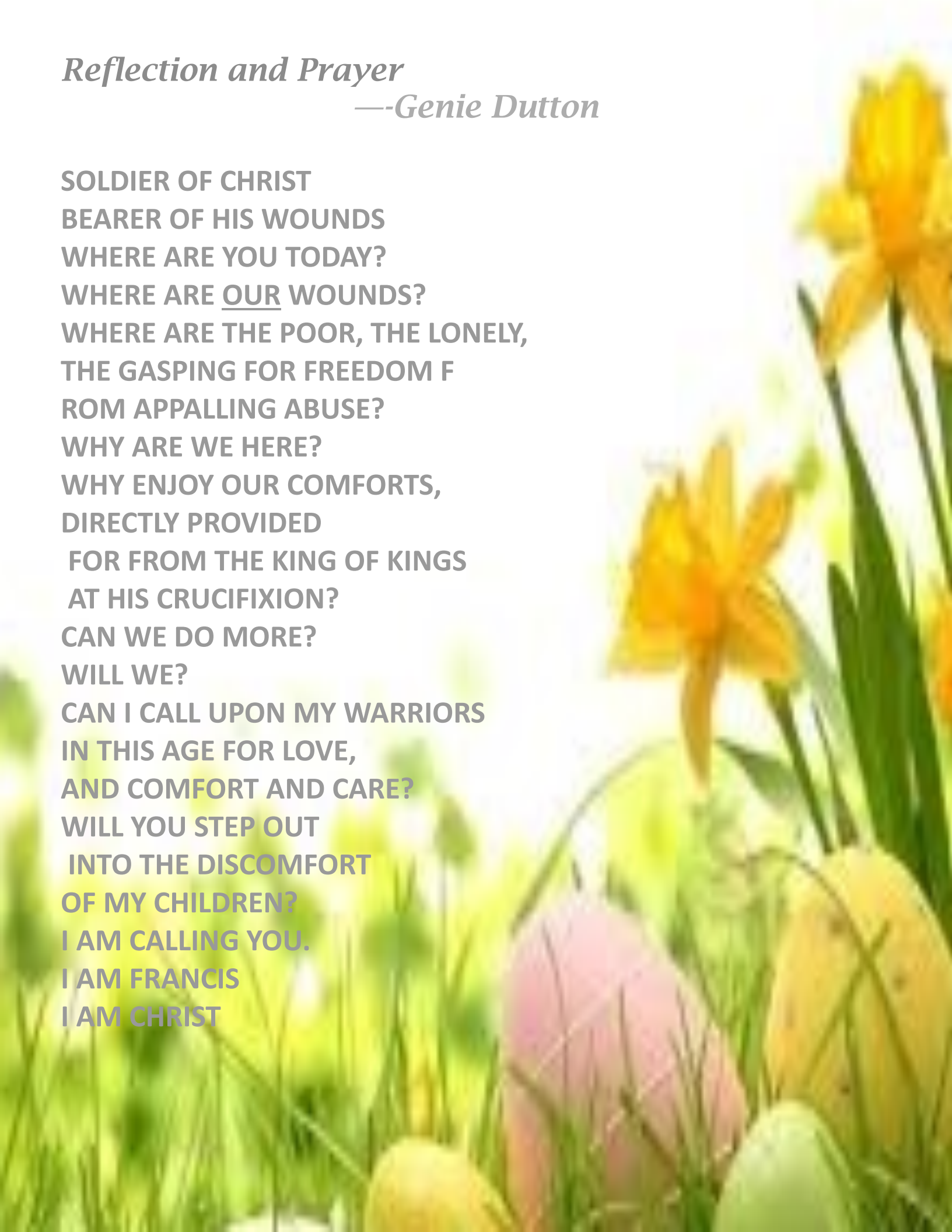
**Mail contributions— Common Fund to:  
Carmencita Fiesta  
3330 N Leisure World Blvd  
Apt. 914  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906**

**Check payable to:  
St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity**

## *Reflection and Prayer*

—Genie Dutton

SOLDIER OF CHRIST  
BEARER OF HIS WOUNDS  
WHERE ARE YOU TODAY?  
WHERE ARE OUR WOUNDS?  
WHERE ARE THE POOR, THE LONELY,  
THE GASPING FOR FREEDOM F  
ROM APPALLING ABUSE?  
WHY ARE WE HERE?  
WHY ENJOY OUR COMFORTS,  
DIRECTLY PROVIDED  
FOR FROM THE KING OF KINGS  
AT HIS CRUCIFIXION?  
CAN WE DO MORE?  
WILL WE?  
CAN I CALL UPON MY WARRIORS  
IN THIS AGE FOR LOVE,  
AND COMFORT AND CARE?  
WILL YOU STEP OUT  
INTO THE DISCOMFORT  
OF MY CHILDREN?  
I AM CALLING YOU.  
I AM FRANCIS  
I AM CHRIST





H A P P Y

E A S T E R