

ST MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY
ORDER OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
THE ANGELUS * AUGUST 9, 2020

The Assumption
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy August 12th Birthday to Lilian Soriano and Tom McGrath!

The monthly Mass for living and deceased fraternity members will be on Saturday, August 1st at 8:30 a.m. at the Shrine of St. Jude Church.

Prayers: Please pray for the recovery of Brenda Dawson and Hazel Cummings' husband, Marty.

St. Stephen's Food Pantry at the Shrine of St. Jude Church - Donations desperately needed - Contact web sites: Shrineofstjude.org/news/food-donations-needed or [facebook.com/StStephen food pantry/](https://facebook.com/StStephenfoodpantry/)

Please consider cans of chicken and tuna, vegetables, pasta and sauce in plastic jars only, baby products. See web sites.

Blessings, Genie

Rejoice always; pray continually;

give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus

(1 Thes. 5:16-18)

August Meeting

Our July meeting will begin at 12:30 PM (Social Time)/1:00 PM (Meeting Start) by ZOOM.

At our July Meeting, we will have a RITE OF WELCOMING to our new inquirers, Bette O'Connor, Delia Sylla, Aurea Pinto and Ahren Stephens, on Sunday. Our current inquirer, Ingrid Roberts, will also be honored.

We will also be presenting (remotely) Certificates of Appreciation to our FORMATION TEAM for all their hard work. That team is headed up by Tom, and is made up of Carmencita, Portia, Brenda, Hazel and Mike. How blessed we are to have such dedicated and capable team members.

Minister's Message

Dale recently analogized the covid quarantines we are enduring to the 40 years the Hebrew people spent in the desert while God formed them and prepared them to settle the Holy Lands and she made the point, in so many words, that we should not complain but recognize that this is a special time of grace (even if we don't understand it) and allow God to prepare us. I was struck by the pure wisdom in what Dale said. Many of the events and circumstances of our lives can be challenging and even inscrutable. Trust in God, prayer and our continued community with each other, even if its by ZOOM as well as our families and friends are vital to keeping us moving in the right direction. I know I personally am very grateful for the daily prayer group we have even if I can't join every day. It is a privilege to pray with sister and brothers who are so dedicated to loving God and following Jesus in Francis's footsteps.

I do wonder sometimes how Francis can see me as his true follower when he was so passionate and uncompromising with himself and embraced holy poverty with the totality of his being. This month we celebrate St. Clare's Feast Day on August 11.th. St. Clare had a great understanding of the privilege of loving Christ. As she wrote to St. Agnes of Prague: "

Happy, indeed, is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet, to cling with all her heart to Him whose beauty all the heavenly hosts admire unceasingly, whose love inflames our love, whose contemplation is our refreshment, ..."

Friends, we are on the same team as St. Francis and St. Clare. What a privilege and what a challenge. May we each share deeply in the Franciscan Charism and love Christ without reserve to the fullest of our abilities. Thank God for the communion of saints. It is amazing to think that St. Francis and St. Clare are thinking about us and helping us on in our Franciscan journey.

Over the next few issues of “The Angelus”, I will Continue to share with you more of my writings from my spiritual assistant training. Specifically, I will show you what I wrote on two major topics that I feel all Franciscans should include and of which our Father Francis based the inception of our order in 1209: Penance and Conversion. The Secular Franciscan Order was originally known as “The Ancient Order of Penitents”, or in more familial terms, “The Brothers and Sisters in Penance”. I wish to modify this slightly to “Brothers and Sisters in Conversion”, or “BASIC”. On my opinion, this acronym better describes who we are as Franciscans, and implies what St. Francis referred to his companions: a humble, simple, and basic community of “lesser brothers (Friars Minor)”. So, let me start the sharing with you of these “basics”.

“Conversion” is a term that can be applied in various ways to many different situations. It can be a many -sided experience that can happen to anyone if they but truly see the need for it and allow it to come into their lives. It involves a notable change in us, a transformation to a more radical degree. It can be the main thrust that comes upon all of us when we respond to the call of becoming Franciscan. It involves an increased and more vigorous attempt at taking on the Gospel message. We achieve it initially and then perpetuate it as part of our formation process. We arrive at it filled with the grace of God through our untiring efforts at learning with our personal experiences, our practices as Catholics and Christians, biblical reflections we may read, and religious formation we may take up.

Any aspect of our lives is subject to a conversion, be it moral, intellectual, spiritual, or personal. It means conforming our standards, thoughts, and actions to a particular way we feel Christ Himself would have done if confronted with the same or similar situation (Recall WWJD, “What would Jesus do”). It effects a change in our behavior, thinking, and stand on any one issue at the moment. What is not conversion, however, is adhering to standards that are inappropriate to the real Gospel message and considering such actions as exceptions to the rule if they are contrary to your thinking. One common example here is to blame a high crime rate in a certain area of town on the racial or ethnic demographic of that area. But when presented with another area of town with the same demographic with a much lower crime rate, your response is that there are always exceptions to the rule stating an alternate reason in your opinion why there may be much less crime in this case. Conversion can also be known as the state of understanding and accepting the grey areas for what they really are in a black and white world.

In terms of Franciscan spirituality, conversion has a main thrust of being penitential in nature. To us as Franciscans, conversion can be a disciplinary step: through the endurance and tolerance of penance, we are prompted to change our behavior and allow ourselves to undergo that “radical interior change” which enables us to view our actions in a different light. In turn, this brings us to the proper type of reasoning for living a truly Franciscan way of life. We, of course, already have a vivid and graphic example of this radical interior change or conversion when we took up the study of the life of St. Francis of Assisi as our response to our discernment in our order. We, thus, make our lives typical of his, living them in a modern day version and getting a good start at experiencing the type of conversion we really need for today’s difficult and incompatible world.

May the Lord give us all peace!

Mike

ASSUMPTION OF MARY - AUGUST 15

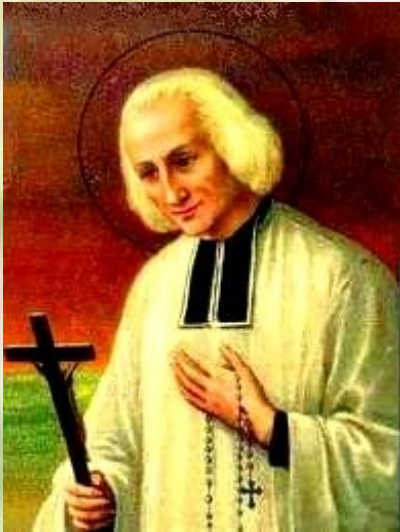
This solemnity recognizes Mary's passage into heaven, united body and soul. The tradition of Mary's assumption dates back to at least the 5th century, but the doctrine was only dogmatically and infallibly defined in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.

Many Marianist religious professed their first vows on this date.



LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING AUGUST FEAST DAYS!

ST. JEAN-MARIE OF VIANNEY — AUGUST 8



Saint John Mary Vianney conducted the divine services with all possible solemnity, and this proved an attraction for the people. By means of frequent instructions, especially in catechism, he taught his parishioners about virtue and vice, and portrayed in vivid terms the reward God has reserved for the good and the punishment that will be inflicted on the wicked.

It was well known that the saint was a miracle worker. Completely worn out, Saint John Vianney collapsed at the last day of May, 1859, and died peacefully in the Lord without any agony on August 4. His body was exhumed in 1859 due to the impending beatification, and was found to be incorrupt. His heart, later removed, was placed in a reliquary and is kept in a building known as the Shrine of the Curé's Heart.

ST. MONICA — AUGUST 27

St. Monica (333-387) was born in Tagaste, northern Africa and died in Ostia, near Rome. Monica was a Christian, but her husband Patricius was a pagan and a man of loose morals. Monica's virtues and prayers, however, converted



him, and he was baptized a year before his death. When her son, Augustine, joined the Manichean sect and went astray in faith and morals, Monica's tears and prayers for her son were incessant. She followed him to Milan, where Augustine went to teach, and there continued to storm heaven with her prayers for her son. Finally, she had the joy of witnessing St. Ambrose baptize Augustine in 387. She died in Ostia, as she and her son gazed at the sea and discoursed about the joys of the blessed.

St. Monica is an example of those holy matrons of the ancient Church who proved very influential in their own quiet way. Through prayer and tears she gave the great Augustine to the Church of God, and thereby earned for herself a place of honor in the history of God's kingdom on earth.