



# Our Lady of the Rosary Secular Franciscan Fraternity Williamsburg, Virginia

[www.olsfo.weebly.com](http://www.olsfo.weebly.com)



October 2020

### Important Dates:

- 10/2 Susan James — Birthday
- 10/12 Barbara Massey — Birthday
- 10/18 Zoom Fraternity Meeting 1:00pm
- 10/18 Annie Pepper — Birthday

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

“Stuff is Valuable. Wisdom is Priceless.”

“All humans have an impact on this world. Every action we take on planet Earth has an impact on it, & every positive thing you do, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, makes the world a better place. It is together that we make huge alterations. Without each individual’s contribution, nothing would change in this world. Your actions do make a difference every day.”

I read & borrowed the above because I felt it brought me straight to the heart of the matter. What I do today affects not only me but everyone around me, & the future of my immediate world and that to come for many generations. It may seem a small gesture: picking up that small piece of paper I dropped, using cloth napkins, tablecloths, kitchen towels, recycling items, contributing to the need of someone I don’t know from across the planet. I am only one; when your actions are added to mine we become a mighty force on this planet. Our JPIC Programs are the tools easily available to guide us. I hope you’ve been able to read the items forwarded from our Regional Formation Director on this subject. Make a difference!

We are already on the eve of the election period. Whatever your political views, I beseech you to vote. This is not only your right but your duty to make your voice heard. And while you're at it, lend a hand. There may be a shut in neighbor who would appreciate your help, whether that is a ride to their polling site or helping to get an absentee ballot. Something as small as signing as witness for an absentee ballot can be a great relief to someone who is alone. Make a difference!

I leave you with a statement from St. Francis: “A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.” My interpretation? -- SMILE! Even with a mask on the twinkle in your eyes will transmit a message of love & hope. And if while maintaining “social distance” you can lower that mask so that smile can be seen, even better. Make a difference!

In Francis & Clare, Maria

Be as an adventurer, Exploring not new worlds but minds

### Praying for Our Deceased Brothers and Sisters



Joan Albrecht  
Edna Bartlett  
Gladys Branch  
Julia Carey  
Donald Carpenter  
Dorothy and Janice Carpenter  
Rose Coleman  
Josephine Decori  
Esme Esflavo  
Marian Garris  
Florence Gorden  
Jack Houlahan  
Dorothy and Don Johnson  
Lauren Pallazola  
Mark Pepper  
Daphne Pritchett  
Elma Stanbeck  
Lauren Sessa  
Denny Thiel  
Maria Torres  
Frances Warren  
Thomas Warren



Visit our website at [olsfo.weebly.com](http://olsfo.weebly.com)



During the COVID-19 meeting restriction, if you wish to continue your monthly fraternity donation please send your check to treasurer, Barbara Massey, 862 Ventnor Drive, Newport News, VA 23608-8927. **Please make checks payable to SFO.**

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### **Profile on Susan James, OFS**

Susan James was born Susan Jane Lang on October 2, 1944, the Feast of the Guardian Angels, the eighth child in a family of 4 boys and 4 girls, in Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York.

She graduated Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY as a liberal arts music major and attended graduate school in Cinema at University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Met her first husband and moved to Chicago where she worked as an Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Education at Northeastern Illinois University and earned her Illinois teaching certificate for speech & performing arts. A few years later after an annulment, she moved back to New York, worked for a real estate company as a tenant liaison for the IRS and the NYC Fire Department, and then Video Administration Coordinator for Atlantic Records while she studied theatre where she met her present husband, Bob James. Susan married 6 years later in 1980 and moved to Long Beach, Long Island, NY. Bob's daughter Kimberly living in Maryland is a welcome addition to the family.

In pursuing theatre, Susan has understudied on Broadway, produced musical revues for the American Theatre Wing and the USO and 20 years ago, founded a cultural arts non-profit organization of visual, literary, and performing artists in partnership with the community where she continues to produce annual cabaret festivals in New York. She also teaches the Great American Songbook with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of the College of William and Mary.

Susan was professed as a Third Order Franciscan in Long Beach in 1989. And on moving to Williamsburg, VA in 2006, joined Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity. A member of St. Bede parish, she sings in the choir and lectures at Masses and volunteers with the Hope Pregnancy Center. A member of local writing and genealogy groups, she also sings with the A Capella Singers of Williamsburg, exploring barbershop harmonies.

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### *Prayer Request*

*Please keep in your prayers: Aubrey, Danielle and Ben Allen, Anthony Coulson, Nicole Dunlap and Xavier.*



## Regional Retreat

Our Regional Retreat is set for May 21 – 23, 2021 at the Loyola Retreat Center in Faulkner, Maryland

<https://loyolaonthepotomac.com/>



Our facilitator for the weekend will be Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM from the Holy Land Monastery in Washington, DC. For more information please go to <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/upcoming-events/> and scroll down to the second event. The 2021 Retreat Centers cost for the weekend has not come out yet, stay tuned.



## 2021 Quinquennial

The National Fraternity Council came together by Zoom Teleconference, to discuss the upcoming 2021 Quinquennial (The Q) to be held in Phoenix, Arizona. The council weighed the pro's and con's concerning the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to keep us somewhat restricted in many States. It was the decision of the National Council to cancel the Quinquennial (The Q) in 2021.

This decision was made due to the uncertainty associated with the Pandemic. The council has set their sights to hold the Quinquennial, possibly in 2023. The new dates have not been set yet. The NEC has begun renegotiating the contract. Details will be relayed as soon as decisions are made. Stay tuned.

**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**

### Five years

Ani Kelly  
Cindy Holland

### Fifteen years

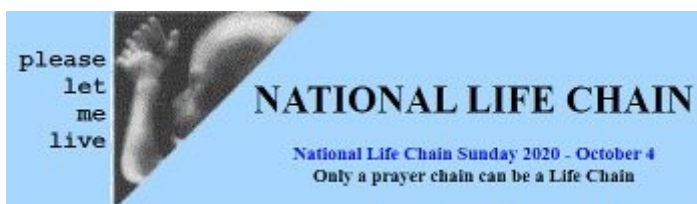
Glen Davis

### Twenty years

Sister Bernadette  
Joan Beuhler

### Twenty five years

Annie Pepper  
Leo Wells



Once again St. Olaf Catholic Church, in coordination with other churches, **WELCOMES ALL** to participate in

## **32nd National Life Chain.**

**Sunday, October 4th from 2:00 to 3:15 PM.**

This will be the Greater Williamsburg area's 8th annual participation in this event. Location will be on the sidewalk facing Richmond Road starting at Centerville Road. The Life Chain is a peaceful, prayerful, and public witness of pro-life faithful standing in honor of 60+ million lives lost to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that we support the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

# Pope to U.N.: Respect for each human life is essential for peace, equality



Pope Francis is seen on a video screen in an empty conference room at United Nations headquarters as he speaks in a pre-recorded message addressing the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Friday, Sept. 25, 2020, at U.N. headquarters. (Credit: Mary Altaffer/AP.)

Cindy Wooden - Sep 25 2020

Catholic News Service

ROME — Pope Francis asked members of the United Nations how they think they can respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and build a more peaceful, more just world when

many of their countries spend billions on military weapons and when their treatment of the unborn, of refugees and of women shows so little respect for human life.

“We must ask ourselves if the principal threats to peace and security — poverty, epidemics, terrorism and so many others — can be effectively be countered when the arms race, including nuclear weapons, continues to squander precious resources that could better be used to benefit the integral development of peoples and protect the natural environment,” the pope said in his video address, which was broadcast Sept. 25.

On the fifth anniversary of his visit to the U.N. headquarters in New York, Pope Francis returned to themes he has repeated since the COVID-19 pandemic began: Humanity faces a choice between trying to go back to an often unjust “normal” or taking the opportunity to rethink economic and political policies, putting the good of all people and the environment ahead of concern for maintaining the lifestyles of wealthy individuals and nations.

He drew particular attention to the pandemic’s impact on children, “including unaccompanied young migrants and refugees,” as well as to reports that “violence against children, including the horrible scourge of child abuse and pornography, has also dramatically increased.”

With millions of children still out of school, he said, there is a risk of “an increase in child labor, exploitation, abuse and malnutrition.”

“Sad to say, some countries and international institutions are also promoting abortion as one of the so-called ‘essential services’ provided in the humanitarian response to the pandemic,” he said. “It is troubling to see how simple and convenient it has become for some to deny the existence of a human life as a solution to problems that can and must be solved for both the mother and her unborn child.”

Pope Francis insisted that addressing the pandemic and building a more just and equitable world involves looking at every aspect of national and international life.

The pandemic “can represent a concrete opportunity for conversion, for transformation, for rethinking our way of life and our economic and social systems, which are widening the gap between rich and poor based on an unjust distribution of resources,” he said. Or “the pandemic can be the occasion for a ‘defensive retreat’ into greater individualism and elitism.”

The latter path, he said, “emphasizes self-sufficiency, nationalism, protectionism, individualism and isolation; it excludes the poor, the vulnerable and those dwelling on the peripheries of life. That path would certainly be detrimental to the whole community, causing self-inflicted wounds on everyone. It must not prevail.”

When companies, including those being assisted by government handouts during the pandemic, focus more on profits than on job creation, they contribute to the “throwaway culture,” which treats people as less important than wealth, he said.

“At the origin of this throwaway culture is a gross lack of respect for human dignity, the promotion of ideologies with reductive understandings of the human person, a denial of the universality of fundamental human rights, and a craving for absolute power and control that is widespread in today’s society,” he said. “Let us name this for what it is: an attack against humanity itself.”

The pope called on countries to work together to fulfill the ideals upon which the United Nations was founded 75 years ago, particular in peacemaking, defending human rights and caring for the world’s poorest and most disadvantaged.

“It is in fact painful to see the number of fundamental human rights that in our day continue to be violated with impunity,” he said, speaking of a “frightening picture of a humanity abused, wounded, deprived of dignity, freedom and hope for the future.”

“Religious believers continue to endure every kind of persecution, including genocide, because of their beliefs,” he said. “We Christians, too, are victims of this: how many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world are suffering, forced at times to flee from their ancestral lands, cut off from their rich history and culture.”

But the pope also drew special attention to situation of refugees, migrants and the internally displaced fleeing conflict, persecution and extreme poverty.

In an apparent reference to the situation in the Mediterranean, he denounced how “thousands are intercepted at sea and forcibly returned to detention camps, where they meet with torture and abuse. Many of these become victims of human trafficking, sexual slavery or forced labor, exploited in degrading jobs and denied a just wage. This is intolerable, yet intentionally ignored by many!”

Nations have entered into regional and international agreements to assist migrants and refugees, but often are lacking the political support at home to make them a reality or the countries just “shirk their responsibilities and commitments,” he said.

“The pandemic has shown us that we cannot live without one another, or worse still, (be) pitted against one another,” Pope Francis insisted. “The United Nations was established to bring nations together, to be a bridge between peoples. Let us make good use of this institution in order to transform the challenge that lies before us into an opportunity to build together, once more, the future we all desire.”