

**ST MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY  
ORDER OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN  
THE ANGELUS \* SEPTEMBER 13 2020**



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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2020

Greetings folks,

It is true that God works in mysterious ways and seems to work best when life is challenging and when we sense our own failures most keenly or face physical sufferings or other problems.

There is a definite upside to being knocked off our horses.

Sometimes God uses those moments to redirect our inner paths back to a more authentic life with Him. Yesterday was not a good day for me.

I got into a fruitless and heated political/abortion argument with my husband's doctor which I definitely should have handled better, and later in the day realized rather keenly that I have spoken with unnecessary negativity about two people with whom I do business. I was definitely feeling both like a failed Franciscan and also like the world was getting to be a darker and darker place.

It was upsetting and stressful but I am encouraged to remember that, in Jesus' time, it was the struggling, suffering, and failing people who turned to Jesus for help and had the most wonderful encounters with Him. Authentic moments of encounter, healing, and redemption can be the fruit of personal failings, problems, and illnesses, when we take them as an opportunity to turn to God.

Let's remember that Father Francis calls us to daily conversion and Christ calls us to His own very merciful loving Heart every day.

*-Susan*



**From Mary  
we learn  
to surrender  
to God's Will  
in all things.**

**From Mary  
we learn  
to trust even when  
all hope seems gone.**

**From Mary  
we learn  
to love Christ  
her Son  
and the  
Son of God!**

*St John Paul*

## LET'S REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING SEPTEMBER FEAST DAYS!

### ST. MOTHER THERESA OF CALCUTTA — SEPT. 5



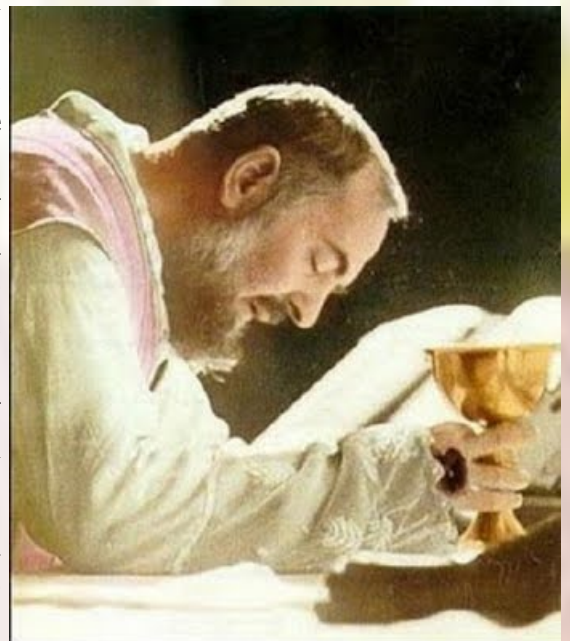
*She equals in holiness and generosity the great 'Terasas' she chose to emulate.* Anjezë (Agnes) Gonxha

Bojaxhiu was a tiny Albanian woman whose strong-as-iron faith served as a fulcrum to budge the world closer to God. She was born into a devout family in Skopje, in present day Macedonia. Her parent's marriage had been arranged, according to custom, and was happy and fruitful. The family was prosperous and regularly helped the poor and abandoned. Feeling the call to serve Christ and the Church, Agnes decided to become a nun with the Loretto Sisters who were based in Dublin, Ireland. So when she was eighteen, a large procession of family, classmates, and parishioners accompanied her to Skopje's train station. Mother Teresa became internationally famous, an icon of charity and peace, for all the right reasons. After her death it was revealed that she struggled to feel God's presence for much of her life but persevered in prayer and sacrifice nonetheless. She was constructed of steel, in perpetual motion, and operated on almost no food or sleep. All of her religious sisters are similarly indestructible. She was canonized by Pope Francis in 2016.

### St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest—SEPT. 23

Pio's life fused with Christ's so totally that Pio's very body bore the marks of his beloved. Not the same haircut, clothes, or gait, but the same nail marks and bloody wounds. Father Pio merged with Christ such that to look upon the friar's hands was to see the crucified palms of the Son of God on Calvary. Padre Pio grew up dirt poor and uneducated in a village near Naples, Italy, in 1887. Neither his parents nor his grandparents could read or write. He was baptized as Francesco and helped on the family's small plot of land as a boy. The family was deeply religious, in the good, medieval way that perdured in rural, southern Europe far longer than it did in northern lands. Beginning in 1918 he began to experience the stigmata, or marks of the sufferings of Christ. He bled where Christ bled. Holes perforated his hands. He had sharp pains in his side. He also began to display supernatural gifts: bilocation, prophecy, miracles, and healings. His personal routine of prayer and mortification was itself stupefying. He did not want his private passion to play out in public, but it did. He became famous in Italy for being holy. Then he became widely known the world over. By the time of his death in 1968, Padre Pio was a bona fide Catholic superstar.

Padre Pio had mystique. That mystique was not rooted in good looks, a chateau on the Côte d'Azur, or in movie roles. It was how he said Mass.



United by their vocation as “brothers and sisters of penance” and motivated by the dynamic power of the Gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of the radical interior change that the Gospel itself calls “conversion”. Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

### **Chapter two, Rule #7**

Continuing our discussion on conversion, our Father Francis’s whole eighteen years as a religious was one continuous conversion spectrum. As his life underwent change( internally and at times radically during the period of 1208 to 1226), he increasingly realized and then preached about Jesus Christ as a model to imitate and not just one to be prayerfully called upon to fix problems. This imitative practice is to be the main thrust of our personal conversion or real inner change of our hearts: a change done after much reflection, discernment, pondering and its gradual integration into our everyday routine lives. We must be fully aware that this conversion is to be with us for the rest of our lives and must be carefully and properly done. It should not include the following:

\*When we encounter a matter that brings on a prejudice of ours, we find ourselves to simply dismiss it as “an exception to the rule” and make no effort at realizing our opinion and attitude to be prejudicial.

\*Changing our behavior and thoughts because they seem appropriate and comfortable and because others have taken them on as practices. This is change, yes, but for what reason? Have we given it enough time to consider whether it really reflects our true thoughts or not or were we inclined to make the change because it looks favorable by others? Would we want it to become a permanent characteristic of our lives?

\*The tendency toward “putting on airs” or outwardly showing a behavioral change without the prompting of a radical interior change. We try to hide our lack of desire to undergo a conversion to a better and more Christian and Franciscan-friendly position. This is actually more critical than simply refusing to let our heart be converted. We should never let our conversion be “skin deep”. It tends to make us deceptive and disappointing in our character to others.

Conversion is, a main Franciscan characteristic: a continuous changing of heart and spiritual renewal needed to give us the ability to take on the manner of Jesus Christ. In Francis’s letter to us, which was in the prologue to The Rule, if we are totally in love with our Lord and promote a community united in the Eucharist, then we become a model of Christ and thus follow God’s will eliminating all actions that keep us from becoming one with Him. The daily conversion we need to carry out, thus, is essential in conforming ourselves to Him.

He summoned the crowd with His disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to come

After me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save

His life will lose it but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.”

(Mark 8: 34 – 35)

May the Lord give us peace!

*Mike*

## **EVER VIRGIN, HOLY MARY MOTHER OF THE TRUE GOD**

To you do we turn,  
Our Heavenly Mother of sweetest love and tender compassion,  
in this and every graceful moment  
that passes under your protection and care.

Pray for us your beloved children,  
oh Help of Christians,  
that the light of your Son Jesus  
which so purely flows through your Immaculate Heart  
will illuminate our lives  
and vanquish all darkness in our midst.

Oh Spouse of The Most High,  
pray the Father to have mercy upon our land  
that we might not received what we deserve  
but rather what we need.

Merciful Mother by the aid of your most holy angels  
direct our ways into your shelter;  
into your health;  
safe within your loving bosom;  
into a renewed and united revelation  
of God's infinite and everlasting love through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

photo: A statue of Mary and Jesus in the church of SS Peter & Paul in  
the Kalverstraat in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

The church is often referred to as 'De Papegaai' (The Parrot), because it  
was originally hidden in the enclosed garden of a bird trader. This goes  
back to the days when public displays of Catholicism were forbidden in  
Amsterdam.

#netherlandsamsterdam #wrrtotustusfiat

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Happy Birthday to Dale Eppig on September 8!**

Our monthly Mass for living and deceased fraternity members will be on **Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** at the **Shrine of St. Jude Church**. Park in front of the church.

**No back lot parking during school hours.**

**Pray** for the needs and intentions of our fraternity members.

**Pray** also for our Pastors and Associates, our ill parishioners, and the hungry in our neighborhoods. (See info on St. Stephen's Pantry at St. Jude's.)

**Pray** also for the happy repose of the souls of Helen Hillstrom, Alfio and Rose Mary Mazzaglia, and Rose Lawrence, and for all the souls in Purgatory.

The Lady of All Nations Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send now Your Spirit over the earth. Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all Nations,

That they may be preserved from degeneration, disaster and war. May the Lady of All Nations, the Blessed Virgin Mary, be our Advocate!  
Amen.

St. Stephen's Pantry at the Shrine of St. Jude:

Donations are desperately needed. Last week, 420 people were served.

Contact web sites: [shrineofstjude.org/news/food-donations-needed](http://shrineofstjude.org/news/food-donations-needed) or

Facebook.com/St. Stephen food pantry.

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

Since school is now in session from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., food donations cannot be dropped off in the breezeway during school hours. Weekend donations can be donated at a table located in the breezeway.

**NO PARKING WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE BACK PARKING LOT DURING SCHOOL HOURS. PLEASE PARK IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH ON WEEK DAYS.**

*Blessings, Genie*





**Heavenly Father,**

**Thank You for Your goodness,  
& faithfulness in my life.**

**Thank You for refreshing, &  
renewing my heart.**

**Fill me with Your peace,  
& strength.**

**Help me to do good, &  
stand firm until I see  
my harvest of blessings.**

**In Jesus name I pray, Amen.**

*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

