

**St Mary of The Angels Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
The Angelus * DECEMBER 13, 2020**



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

Our Beautiful Christmas Meeting! Held by ZOOM on December 13th, Social Time: 12:30, Meeting Starts at 1. Our special Guest Speaker is **Robert Longo (Bob)**, our regional minister who has graciously accepted our invitation to speak at our meeting on the Franciscan topic of his choice. **Bob chose to speak on the importance of Fraternity.** Thank you to Bob for taking your time to spend with us and on such an important topic. Bob will speak right after our opening prayer and announcements.

After Bob speaks, **Tom will lead us in Christian Prayer.** By the way, **Carmencita, Portia and Tom have added afternoon Evening Prayer to our 3PM daily Zoom prayers.** Thanks to them for all their hard work.

After Christian Prayer, **we will have an online Christmas Party!** LOL. We are hoping for a joyful and inspirational sharing. **Each of us (yes that means you)** will be asked to offer a brief Advent/Christmas meditation, prayer, song or poem. Try to find something to help us celebrate Our Lord's birth together. And also, by the way, a thank you to **John DiBenedetto** for mailing us the *Advent Magnificat!*

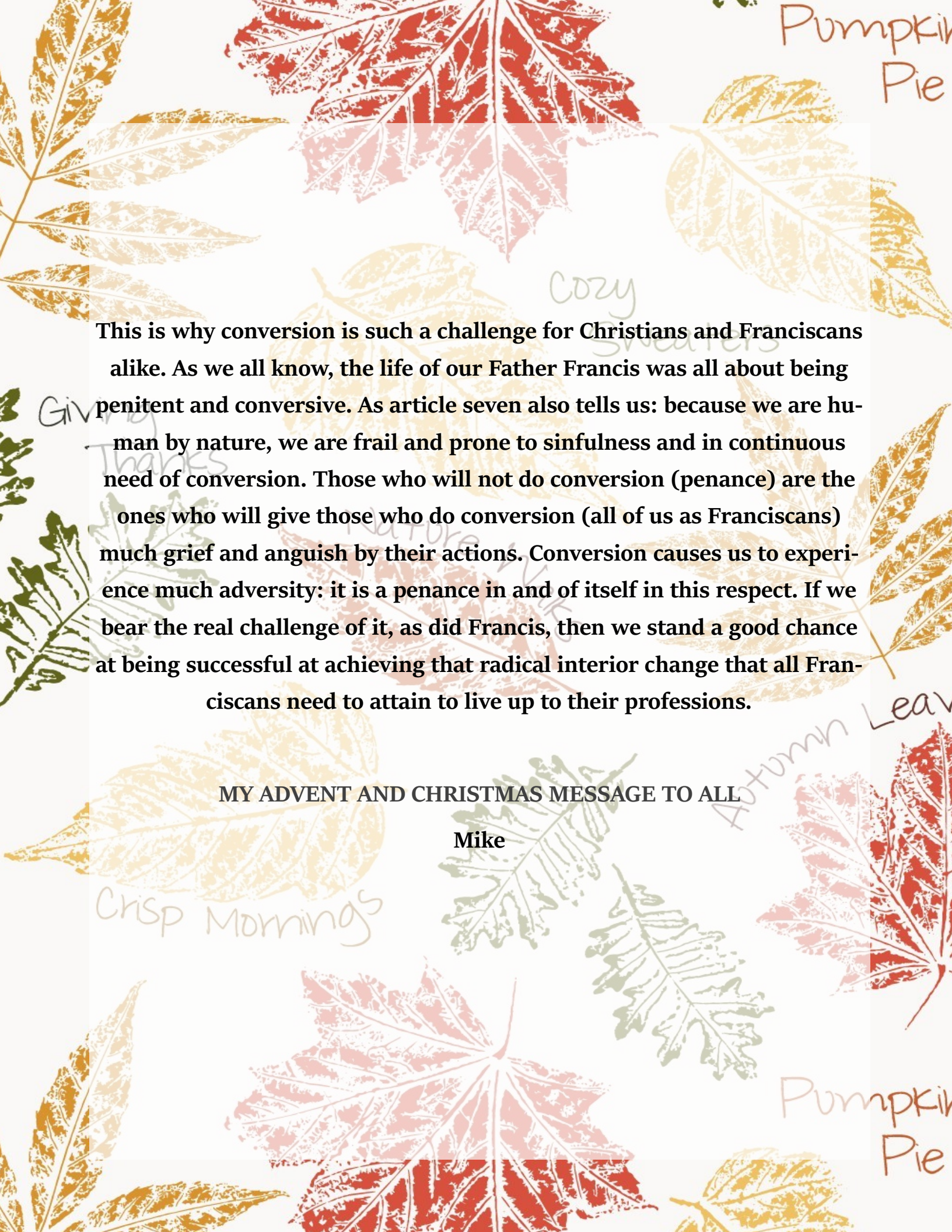
Getting back to Bob Longo: **Bob recently held the Regional Ministers' Chapter Of Mats meeting** and it went very well thanks to his careful planning. Our own Spiritual Assistant **Mike Huether** is the Regional Vice-Minister and did a beautiful job leading us in prayer

Given the reduced costs and overhead caused by Covid, the **Region kindly refunded our Fraternity \$240 from our 2020 Fair Share. The Council sent that same amount on to Father Michael Briese's Foundation to support his work with the needy at Christmas time.** We were sure we would have the whole Fraternity's blessing on our Christmas giving!

Please **continue to pray for the souls in purgatory and for the people that God has placed in your path during your life.** Prayers and sacrifices are so needed. **St. John Vianney** said that some souls are lost for want of having one **Our Father** prayed for them. That is an unbelievable tragedy. Blessings, Susan

Continuing with our discussion on conversion, we pick up on the moral aspect of the topic. This will be my last article on the series of conversion.

Our moral standards depend a good deal upon what we learn from the environment we live in and upon how spiritually based is our upbringing. It all usually starts from the time when we were young children during our home life. As we become older and more mature, we hopefully come to realize that if our moral standards change to a not so appropriate state or turn incompatible with the beliefs we developed as Christians and Franciscans, then we need to change them. This is where we need to let conversion become a part of our lives. But, unfortunately, it's not that easy and never usually is. Chances are, you make up your mind to do the changing, but you end up meeting with some form of resistance or impediment. As a matter of fact, of the four types of conversion we have been discussing with this series, moral conversion meets up with the most resistance. From who? Society in general: the secular unchurched world that has and always will choose the easy "feels good" way and go with it. As always, everyone tends to adapt to a particular way of thinking because it has become the social norm. To decide to do otherwise for it's the moral way is considered countercultural and a radical step toward conversion. It's also the gospel way and that radical step toward it is also known as the Franciscan way of implementing it.



This is why conversion is such a challenge for Christians and Franciscans alike. As we all know, the life of our Father Francis was all about being penitent and conversive. As article seven also tells us: because we are human by nature, we are frail and prone to sinfulness and in continuous need of conversion. Those who will not do conversion (penance) are the ones who will give those who do conversion (all of us as Franciscans) much grief and anguish by their actions. Conversion causes us to experience much adversity: it is a penance in and of itself in this respect. If we bear the real challenge of it, as did Francis, then we stand a good chance at being successful at achieving that radical interior change that all Franciscans need to attain to live up to their professions.

MY ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO ALL

Mike

Submitted by Genie, Happy Birthdays To....

- 2 – Carol Smith;**
- 7 – Alina Zygmunt;**
- 9 – Genie Dutton;**
- 19 – Madonna Goody;**
- 21 – Greg Davis**
- No Anniversaries**

Prayer Requests: Jim Wall for improved health;

- Michael Oliver’s daughter, that she fully recovers from breast cancer**
- Sonia Bernardo’s daughter-in-law, recovering from ear surgery;**
- Brenda Dawson with a serious skin condition;**
- Dale Eppig’s relatives Billy & Fran for improved health;**
- Hazel Cummings’s husband Marty, about to undergo minor eye surgery;**
- Madonna Goody’s cousin recovering from a stroke;**

-Joyce Routh’s family members recovering from Covid

- Susan’s sister-in-laws’ sister Cecily suffering from breast cancer,



Prayer needs continued: -Fr. Michael Briese, for happiness and success in caring for those in need. Donations can be sent to:

Fr. Michael's Mission, Inc., P.O. Box 1115, La Plata, Md. 20646.



Keeping up with our Fraternity Members!

Greetings from Joseph Tap Nguyen living in Germantown now with his family, due to the virus. He sends his greetings to all.

Directory Corrections

New address for the Bernardos: 209
Monroe Street, Apt 109, Rockville,
Md. 20850 (Same phone nos.)

Carol Smith: New phone nos. - 301-646-
0547 and (c) 240-460-9626

Alina Zygmunt: New Address: 3141
Farnborough Ct., Silver Spring, Md.
20906 - New phone no. - 301-
466-0024





Genie continued (thank you so much Genie!)



Remember to donate to St. Stephen's Food Pantry at the Shrine of St. Jude. The need is great.

Genie received a thank you note from Rose Lawrence's family:

"It is with grateful hearts that we thank you for the Mass card you provided in memory of our beloved sister, Rose. We know she was very devoted to the Order and loved you all dearly.

May God bless all of you!" -The Lawrence Family

LET'S REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING
DECEMBER FEAST DAYS!

Saint John of the Cross— DECEMBER 14

December 14. Saint John of the Cross was a 16th century reformer of the Carmelite way of life. Together with Saint Teresa of Avila, he lived the primitive Rule of their Order, and paid a dear price for his commitment to reform and authentic living. Saint John of the Cross died in 1591.



Saint Stephen— DECEMBER 26

December 26. If it weren't for Saint Luke telling us about the selection and martyrdom of Saint Stephen in Acts of the Apostles, we would know nothing about him at all. The little we do know, however, speaks volumes about what kind of man he was, his love for Jesus, and the early Church community.



Saint John the Apostle— DECEMBER 27

December 27. Saint John the Apostle, also known as the Beloved Disciple, was the writer of the fourth Gospel, and presumably, the only apostle who was not martyred. He is also the disciple to whom Jesus entrusted his mother from the cross. Symbolized as an eagle, Saint John's Gospel "soars" in its theological treatment of the good news.



Blessed Mary Francis Schervier -DECEMBER 15

Blessed Mary Frances Schervier founded the Sisters of the Poor of Saint Francis, devoted to caring for the poor of this world. To this day they run hospitals and homes for the aged in the United States and around the world. Blessed Mary Frances died in 1876. almost immediately. Catherine was imprisoned and tortured. She was martyred in Alexandria, Egypt in 305.



Reference: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day>

Merry Christmas!

