



Our Lady of the Rosary Secular Franciscan Fraternity Williamsburg, Virginia

www.olsrfo.weebly.com



Message from Vice-Minister— Rick Churray, OFS

Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year!

This is the most joyful time of the year for me as I contemplate the birth of our Savior Jesus and the wonder of the goodness that surrounds us. Barbara and I are decorating the house even though we expect no visitors. We will sit in the beauty of it all. Our Christmas is a gathering at my wife's cousins house to celebrate! In the past, (35+ yrs.) we gathered at Aunt Uppie and Uncle Ed's in Newport News! Aunt Uppie at 89 said it's time to pass the torch which she did last year. We have so many beautiful memories from Christmas at Aunt Uppie and Uncle Ed's. Their home is so beautifully decorated, even today, to celebrate the coming of Jesus. I believe all the outward decorations are necessary to set the stage for the coming of our Lord. Advent is a time of preparation. My question to myself and to you is what do I do internally to prepare for the coming of our Lord? Do I go to confession? Do I read a spiritual book? Do I quietly reflect on the daily readings each day? Do I treat others with the same respect Jesus would treat them with? I'm sure there are other things I could be doing to prepare myself for the Lord's coming. My prayer for each of us is that we do prepare internally. In some way prepare our hearts, change our attitude, and open our souls to hear God calling us to the manger where Jesus lay. We begin the New Year with much HOPE! We have a vaccine for COVID-19! We have a new president and vice president coming on board to lead our country! We have the hope of being able to gather again in a group as a fraternity, as brothers and sisters.

We begin each New Year with resolutions. Resolution to change ourselves in some way. What are your resolutions for this year? I pray you have some resolutions based on your spirituality as Franciscans. Resolutions that will deepen your faith, deepen your love of Jesus, and deepen your love of our Franciscan community! I pray we each resolve to fully participate in our fraternity life. We need each other in this fraternity! We need each other's love and concern for one another. We need each other's wisdom. I know sometimes I do not feel like I have anything worthy to say. I know however that when God nudges me I need to speak. I know my words will land on the person who need to hear what I have to say. I urge each of you to grow your spirituality this year. Fully participate in our formation discussions. Be present at our meetings each month. Our zoom meetings which are run by our formation director Peg are becoming so much better. We had a great discussion at our December meeting of chapter 1 of Clare of Assisi, A Heart Full of Love, The Poverty of God. Please be their next month for our formation discussion on chapter 2 The Poverty of Being Human!

Please do your best to be at our next zoom meeting. If you need help with zoom please call or email me and I will do my best to help you learn zoom. I realize zoom is not the best but right now it's all we have. Preferably, in a few months we will be able to meet somewhere as a group. Maybe the weather will be warm enough that we can meet in the pavilion at a park and enjoy a warm spring afternoon in the sun!

To all of you have a blessed Merry Christmas and a joyful Happy New Year. Please stay vigilant with your COVID-19 safety. Wear a mask and social distancing.

Important Dates:

1/10 Donna Kendall — Birthday

11/17 Zoom Fraternity Meeting 1:00pm



Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus - January 3



January 3 is the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus which is celebrated in the Franciscan Order as well as the Jesuit and Dominican Orders. In many Franciscan Provinces it is celebrated as a Solemnity especially if the Province is named after the Holy Name. Pope John Paul II reinstated a partial indulgence for the reparation of sin with the reverential invocation of the Holy Name of Jesus as part of prayer or work, and the

recitation of the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus. The Confraternity of the Holy Name of Jesus is an organization of Catholic men who seek to spread reverence and praise of the Holy Name throughout the world.

About the Memorial

The Holy Name of Jesus was invoked by the faithful from the very beginning of the Church. In the fourteenth century it began to be venerated with liturgical celebrations. Saint Bernardine of Siena and his disciples zealously promoted the veneration of the Name throughout Italy and Europe, and in the sixteenth century the Holy Name was introduced as a liturgical feast. In the year 1530 Pope Clement VII first permitted the Order of Friars Minor to celebrate the Name of Jesus with its own proper Office. (From the Franciscan Liturgy of the Hours)

Meditation

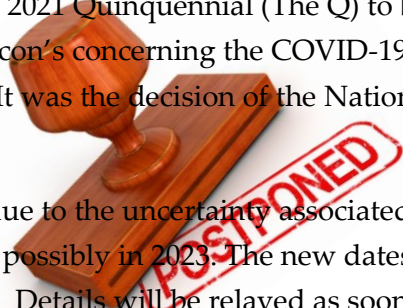
“Jesus’ us-centered orientation wasn’t an afterthought; we are the reason Jesus came to earth, lived, taught, healed, suffered, died and rose again. Perhaps this is why saints throughout the ages have found in the simple name of ‘Jesus’ one of their favorite and most fruitful prayers. Merely invoking our Lord, repeating his name over and over again, gives rest to our souls, because that’s exactly what he came to do.” (Fr. John Bartunek, Praising and Pondering Luke)



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.





Little Known Titles of Our Lady: Our Lady of Czestochowa

One of the “Black Madonnas”, the origin of this miraculous image in Czestochowa, Poland is unknown with absolute certainty, but according to tradition the painting was a portrait of Our Lady done by St. John sometime after the Crucifixion of Our Lord, remaining in the Holy Land until St Helena of the Cross discovered it in the fourth century. Emperor Constantine built a church for its enthronement in Constantinople.

For 500 years the image was threatened numerous times, eventually becoming part of a dowry & taken to a region of Russia that later became Poland. In the 15th century a Polish prince, St. Ladislaus installed it in his castle. An arrow pierced Our Lady’s image while the castle was besieged by Tartar invaders; the scar inflicted has failed repeated artistic attempts to fix it. Determined to save the image St. Ladislaus decided to take it to his birthplace, Opala. Resting for the night in Czestochowa the image was placed in a small wooden church named for the Assumption. The following morning the horses refused to move after the image was placed in the wagon. St. Ladislaus replaced the painting in the Church of the Assumption, taking the horses’ refusal to move as a sign from heaven that the image should stay there. Wishing to have the holiest of men guarding the picture, he assigned the church & the monastery to the Pauline Fathers, who’ve protected it for the last 600 hundred years.

The image has suffered many more attacks throughout history: by the Hussites, Swedish, Russians, even Hitler. The Swedish horde of 12000 was routed by 300 men guarding the image, & the following year the Holy Virgin was acclaimed Queen of Poland. The Miracle of Vistula relates the quick withdrawal of the Russians after the image appeared in the clouds over Warsaw the eve of the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Today, the Polish people honor their beloved portrait of the Madonna & Child on August 26, one of her three feast days.

(Black Madonna- so called because of the dark pigment - is prefigured in the Bible in the Canticle of Canticles, “I am black but beautiful.” In 1717 Pope Clement XI recognized the miraculous image. A crown given & used in the first official coronation of the painting was stolen in 1909, & replaced by Pope Pius X with a gold one encrusted with jewels.)

Prayer to Our Lady of Czestochowa

Holy Mother of Czestochowa, Thou art full of grace, goodness & mercy. I consecrate to Thee all my thoughts, words & actions - my soul & my body. I beseech Thy blessings & especially prayers for my salvation. Today I consecrate myself to Thee, Good Mother, totally with body & soul amid joy & sufferings to obtain for myself & others Thy blessings on this earth & eternal life in heaven. Amen (To be said each day upon arising.)

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.



January Formation



This month we will continue the book, *Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love*. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you as you read Chapter 2. Underline, highlight or otherwise identify those thoughts that spoke to you during your reading. I will be asking you to comment on what caught your eye as you read these pages. I have found it beneficial to prayerfully read the pages more than once to ensure a good understanding of the content. The first questions I will ask are: "What word or phrase stood out to you, and why? We will also discuss the four questions for reflection on page 24. Here is another question I'd like you to pray on. At the bottom of page 11 is the sentence "Poverty calls us to be vulnerable, open and receptive to others, to allow others into our lives and to be free enough to enter into the lives of others." What does the term vulnerable mean to you, and do you consider yourself open to vulnerability?

What is an Admonition?

"A medieval admonition was more than a warning or a calling to mind; it had more of a religious sense in which a biblical passage or image was presented and, in light of it, a practical application was made. Thus, the twenty-eight teachings of Francis offer insights into his biblical thought and the ways in which he translated them into the ordinary experiences of daily life."



oldbookillustrations.com

Introduction to the Admonitions from the website of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition
<https://www.franciscantradition.org/francis-of-assis-early-documents/the-saint/writings-of-francis/the-undated-writings/the-admonitions/144-fa-ed-1-page-128>

At the bottom of page 16 in *Clare of Assisi*, we hear of the Admonitions of St. Francis. This month, take the time to go to the website and read his 28 Admonitions. Each one is short and will give you a better understanding of what St. Francis asked of himself and of us as Secular Franciscans.

<https://www.franciscantradition.org/francis-of-assis-early-documents/the-saint/writings-of-francis/the-undated-writings/the-admonitions/144-fa-ed-1-page-128>



Upcoming Events

- Jan 1 Solemnity Of Mary
- Jan 3 Epiphany
- Jan 6 Epiphany (Three Kings, celebrated in Spanish speaking countries)
- Jan 9 Council Meeting
- Jan 17 Fraternity Gathering (via ZOOM)

Note: Meager showing? We need YOUR input for events at your parish or Other.

Send to qkfs13@gmail.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.**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

5 Years

Ani Kelly

Cindy Holland

15 Years

Glen Davis

20 Years

Sister Bernadette

Joan Beuhler

25 Years

Annie Pepper

Leo Wells



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



Prayer Request

Please keep in your prayers: Joe and Carol Murphy, and Kathy Clagg, OFS, from St. Conrad (Hanover) Fraternity

If you have a prayer request, please email your request to karenrutherfordcoulson@gmail.com to be included in our next newsletter!





A message from Bob Longo

Sister and Brother Ministers,

Our Holy Father Francis dedicated December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021, the Year of St. Joseph. Pope Francis has also added a plenary indulgence to the faithful

Your Franciscan brother in Christ,
Bob Longo, OFS
St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Minister
<http://saintmargaretofcortona.org/>



Church grants plenary indulgence for the year of St. Joseph

Pope Francis on Tuesday announced a special year dedicated to St. Joseph starting from 8 December 2020 until 8 December 2021, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, as well as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and “to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.”

Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”

During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort, and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.”

Devotion to St. Joseph

The decree signed by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, the Major Penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary, and the Regent, Fr. Krzysztof Nykiel, notes that devotion to St. Joseph has grown extensively throughout the history of the Church, “which not only attributes to him high reverence after that of the Mother of God his spouse but has also given him multiple patronages.”

At the same time, the Magisterium of the Church continues to discover “old and new greatness in this treasure which is St. Joseph, like the master in the Gospel of Matthew who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”

Therefore, the gift of indulgences granted through a decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary by mandate of the Holy Father “will be of great benefit to the perfect attainment of the appointed purpose.”

Conditions for the plenary indulgence

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. "St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us", the decree reads, "to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will."

The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph's example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph "encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties," the decree notes.

The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that "all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love, and prayer that was in the Holy Family."

Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph "with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties."

The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the *Akathistos* to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church *ad intra* and *ad extra*, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, "the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment."

A universal saint

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, for example, "To you, O blessed Joseph" especially on "19 March, on 1 May, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph's Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition."

The decree recalls the universality of St. Joseph's patronage of the Church, noting that St. Teresa of Ávila recognized him as "a protector for all the circumstances of life". Pope St. John Paul II also said that St. Joseph has "a renewed relevance for the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium."

For the sick

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes. They too can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

The role of priests

The Apostolic Penitentiary encourages priests to pastorally facilitate the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the administration of Holy Communion to the sick with a willing and generous spirit.



January Franciscan Calendar

January—Month of the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Childhood

1. Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord—Holy Day of Obligation; Plenary Indulgence possible (Chant in public *Veni Creator*)
2. Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
3. Bl. Chriatiane Menaburi, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1310
4. Bl. Angela of Foligno, widow, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1310
5. Bl. Pierre Bonilli, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1935
6. Feast of the Epiphany—Holy Day of Obligation
7. St. Charles of Sezze, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1670
8. Bl. Roger de Toddi, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1237
9. Bl. Gilles de Lorenzana, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1518
10. Bl. Gregory X, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1276
11. St. Thomas of Cori, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1729
12. St. Bernard of Corleone, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1667
13. Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
14. Bl. Oderic de Pordenone, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1331
15. Bl. James of Pieve, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, martyr d. 1304
16. Sts. Berard and Companions, Protomartyrs of the Order, d. 1220
17. Sl. Matthew of Girgenti, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1451
18. Bl. Jeanne of Saint Mary, virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1360
19. Bl. Marcel Spinola y Maestre, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1906
20. Bl. Jean-Baptiste Triquerie, priest, conventual religious, martyr d. 1794
21. Bl. Joseph Nascimbeni, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1922
22. St. Vincent Pallotti, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1850
23. Feast of the Marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary
24. Bl. Paula Gambarà-Costa, widow, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1515
25. Bl. Emmanuel Dominguo y Sol, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1909
26. Bl. Georges Matulwicz, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1927
27. St. Angela Merici, virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1540
28. Bl. Bienvenu de Recanati, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
29. St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, Codbearer, d. 1622
30. St. Hyacintha de Mariscotti, virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1640
31. St. John Bosco, priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1888