



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

# MARCH

## 2021

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

### Message from Minister— Maria Fuentes-Sherman, OFS

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Just as the Holy Father has declared a Year of St. Joseph, at least two previous popes dedicated March to be his month. Well-deserved in my opinion. By taking Mary as his spouse he not only took on the responsibility of taking care of her but also of her child. Was he aware this child was God incarnate? Whether he did or not does not change the responsibilities & challenges he accepted. A man of integrity & honor he never faltered. Did he have doubts? As a human we would have to say he probably did. Yet his faith & trust that God knew what He was doing surmounted any doubts he may have had. Are we as constant in living our own faith? Doubts can assail any of us. It is how we handle them, placing our trust in what God has planned for us, that helps us continue in our faith journey..

While doing research for this I came upon this beautiful Prayer to St. Joseph:

Oh St. Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

Oh St. Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession & obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your Heavenly power I may offer my Thanksgiving & Homage to the most Loving of Fathers.

Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.

Press Him in my name & kiss His fine Head for me, & ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen

And we can't forget St. Patrick. Some may think he is the patron of corned beef & cabbage; kidding!

A Romano-British Christian missionary & bishop in Ireland, he is known as the "Apostle of Ireland" & is its primary patron along with Brigit of Kildare & Columbia. He was born late in the late 14th century, kidnapped at the age of 16, & while a slave in Ireland became a Christian. After having a dream in which the ship on which he was to escape was ready he fled from his master. In the "Confessio", his spiritual autobiography, he tells of dreaming he was being called to return. Because of his doubts it was some years before he did so. It is believed that he incorporated into his teachings favorite preexisting Irish beliefs & symbols, using shamrocks to explain the Christian Trinity. A legend that he rid Ireland of snakes is disputed by scientists who say that snakes never existed in Ireland.

Traditionally the Irish celebrate March 17 as the anniversary of his death, as a religious holiday. That date has become a global celebration, wherever there are Irish. On that date we all become Irish, wearing green & celebrating with corned beef & cabbage, with many indulging in drinking beer. Interestingly, true Irish do not celebrate with this meal.

### Important Dates:

3/6 Ani Kelly — Birthday

3/14 Karen Coulson — Birthday

3/21 Zoom Fraternity Meeting 1:00pm

3/22 Sandra Link



Pax et Bene, Maria

## **Pineapple Inn Pantry**

At the Pineapple Inn, we strive to ensure that our guests have access to all services available to them. This includes access to a small pantry that is stocked by members of the faith community and good hearted individuals. If you would like to help, we are always in need of these items:



Soup/Chili – *Canned foods should have a pop-top if possible*  
Ramen Noodles  
Mac & Cheese (consider Velveeta or Kraft with liquid cheese)  
Rice (White or Brown)  
Canned meat (tuna, chicken, ham, Spam, Vienna Sausages etc.)  
Tuna with crackers kit  
Canned Veggies (no GREEN BEANS)  
Canned tomatoes  
Tuna with crackers kit  
Shelf stable meals - i.e. Hormel Completes  
Pasta  
Spaghetti/Pasta sauce  
Stove Top Stuffing  
Peanut butter  
Jelly  
Sandwich Bread © Fruit cups/canned fruit © Cereal - cheerio's etc.  
Hot Cereal – oatmeal etc.  
Granola/Cereal bars  
Juice (V8, Ocean Spray – no Hi-C please)  
Boxed or powdered milk  
Peanut butter  
Jelly  
Sandwich Bread  
Canola oil/Vegetable Oil (needed to make Rice a Roni etc.)  
Salad Dressing (Ranch & Italian)  
Spices (Salt, pepper, Italian blend etc.)  
Sugar & Flour  
Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo etc.)  
Fresh fruit & vegetables - we are happy to take your excess garden goods  
Snacks/cookies  
Microwave popcorn  
Feminine hygiene products  
Can Openers

We also are in need of pots, pans, dishes, and silverware.

As always we are grateful for any and all donations.

If you have any questions please call us at (757) 259-9670 or send us an email to [info@pineapplehousing.com](mailto:info@pineapplehousing.com)



## **Our Lady of Knock**—Eileen Murray, OFS

My Mother, Elizabeth O'Connor Murray, was born in Octoboy, Knock, County Mayo, Ireland in 1921. My mother had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother, which I'm sure came from her place of birth. We had an altar at our home, and I remember seeing my mother frequently on her knees praying before the Blessed Mother.

We grew up with rosaries from Knock. As the youngest of 16, my mom still had family there and would frequently receive rosaries as gifts. I now carry with me the last rosary my mother had before she passed away. It is a beautiful green rosary, with our Lady of Knock on it. I also have my dad's rosary, and even though he was from County Down in Northern Ireland, he also had a strong devotion to our Blessed Mother and always carried his rosary from Knock. Actually, it's from my dad that I received my devotion to the rosary. And of course, as these are Irish rosaries, each one has a beautiful Celtic cross on it.

For those of you who aren't aware of Our Lady of Knock. Here is some background.

Ireland's version of Lourdes, Our Lady of Knock draws pilgrims, mostly Irish Catholic, in droves. On the evening of August 21st 1879, a heavenly apparition occurred at the gable wall of the parish church in the village of Kock, County Mayo, Ireland, when Our Lady appeared, in the company of St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist. Behind them was an altar on which stood a lamb and above it the crucifix.

The apparition lasted for about two hours and 15 official witnesses gave their testimonies to a commission of Inquiry in October of that year.



On October 8, 1879, Archbishop Mac Hale of Tuam set up an ecclesiastical commission of inquiry to investigate the apparition. The testimonies of all 15 official witnesses to the apparition were found to be trustworthy and satisfactory. Before long, miracles were occurring fast and furious, as sick and lame visitors to the church were pronouncing themselves healed.

Knock came to the world's attention in 1979, when Pope John Paul II visited the shrine. More than 10,000 pilgrims still visit every year.

In 2004, I was blessed to travel to Ireland with my brother and sister. Part of our travels brought us to Knock. First, we saw the thatched cottage my mother was born in. Next, we traveled to the Knock Shrine. The little church was still there, the small church where my mother was baptized in and where the apparition was seen. There is also now a much larger church that has been built. The picture above is from the outer wall of the large church. But to be honest, I felt much closer to Our Lady, and to my mom, while praying in the little church.

One memory I will always cherish from our visit to Knock is the many, many fountains of holy water throughout the grounds. While my sister and I each filled one small bottle with this holy water, I glanced over to see my brother filling up jugs of holy water!! Apparently, he had promised the nuns he worked with at the hospital that he would bring them back holy water. A joyous memory.

My youngest granddaughter was born in 2005, and she was baptized with the holy water from Knock. Another joyous celebration.

My mother's devotion to the Blessed Mother has carried on through my brother, sister and I. Each time I say the rosary I remember my mother and father, our trip to Our Lady's Shrine at Knock, and the many blessings I have received through Our Blessed Mother's intercession.

## March 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 4. I have found it beneficial to prayerfully read the pages more than once to ensure a good understanding of the content. What caught your eye as you read these pages? The first questions I will ask are: “What word or phrase stood out to you, and why? We will discuss the four questions for reflection on page 52. Much of what we are reading this month seems to be a reiteration of Chapter 3. What do you find different in this month’s reading?

The topic of finding our own identity in the “Mirror of the Cross” is hard to accept sometimes because it forces us to confront who we are at our deepest level. This year, in preparation for Lent I was reading essays in the book *Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter*.

One essay “A Look Inside” caused me to pause and rethink what I should be doing this Lent. The author of the essay, Edith Hong, was an American Lutheran, poet, writer and translator who died in 2007. The focus of her essay is that there is the need to spend Lent looking deep into ourselves and determine what we need to change. It’s an uncomfortable thought, but it is what Clare is asking us to do as we gaze into the Mirror of the Cross.

Hong writes:

The reason Lent is so long is that this path to the truth of oneself is long and snagged with thorns, and at the very end one stands alone before the broken body crowned with thorns upon the cross. Yet not alone, for the Spirit of Holiness, who is also the Spirit of Helpfulness, is beside you and me. Indeed. This Spirit has helped to maneuver you and me down that dark, steep path to this crucial spot.

That crucial spot is where we discover who we are – our identity. By knowing who we are, we are empowered to embrace ourselves despite our brokenness and flaws and, in turn, to embrace others with their brokenness and flaws.

What are you doing this Lent, and is it helping you to discover your identity, and to come to conversion?



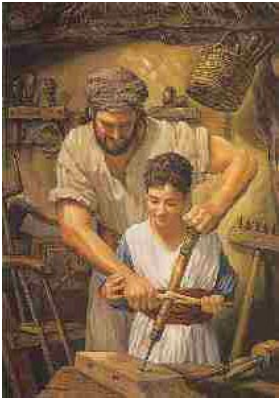
**Falling in Love--  
Our Commitment**

- **CONVERSION: the letting go of one’s ego...**
- **“One is dying to a false self that tries to BE God, that tries to always be in control.”**
- **This is a reversal, a “TURNING TOWARD” the Holy Spirit at work within us.**

– *Francis and Jesus* by Murray Bodo, OFM



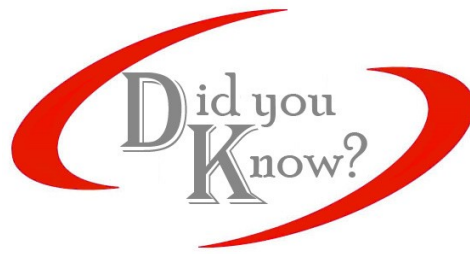
## Lenten Retreat our Morning of Spirituality with St. Joseph



With his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis made this year the year of Saint Joseph. *Patris Corde, With a Father's Heart*, became the centerpoint of our Lenten Morning of Spirituality. Deacon Greg Ballentine lead the retreat using both the Apostolic Letter and a video by Fr. James Martin to investigate and meditate on the "Hidden Life" of St. Joseph. There was a focus on the words of Pope Francis, "*St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.*" We were asked to reflect on St. Joseph's patience, compassion, and how this man we know so little about raised and taught Jesus about prayer, honesty, and relating to others. It was a morning filled with prayerfulness, and we thank Deacon Greg for leading us on the journey.

Some of the Zoom attendees shown below.





### **Did You Know.....**

Each month focuses on a different aspect or title of Mary?

January - Mary Mother of God

February - Mary Who Gives Jesus to the World

March - Mary full of Grace

April - Mary the Woman of Easter

May - Mary in the Cenacle

June - The Immaculate Heart of Mary

July - Our Lady of Mount Carmel

August - The Assumption & Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

October - Our Lady of the Rosary

November - The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December - Mary Immaculate

Wouldn't it be great to dedicate each month to a specific Novena or meditation to one of Our Lady's titles?

---

### **Little Known Facts: Sinners Prayer / Gideon Bible**

Have you ever wondered why hotel rooms usually have a Gideon Bible? Although the connotation is a Protestant one, it is thought that when a person is alone he or she is more prone to think about their life and sins. The bible is there to remind all that there is a Savior to turn to. This short prayer, although originally Protestant, could well be adapted and adopted by us all.

Lord, I know I am a sinner. I need your forgiveness. Please come into my heart and be my personal Savior.

---

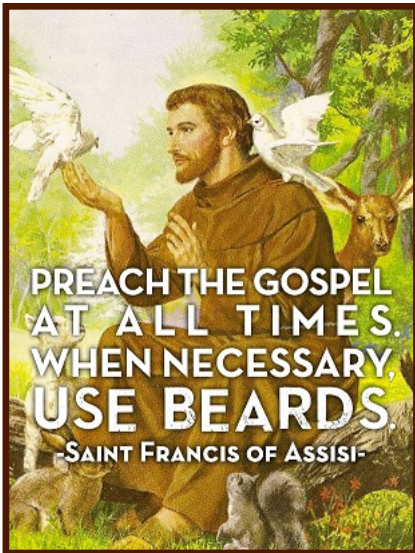
### **Little Known Title of Our Lady**

In the Assumption Cathedral in Moscow there is an icon of our Blessed Lady that has been the object of devotion since the 14th century, although the icon itself is much older. It is the icon of "Eleura, Our Lady of Tenderness". In it Our Lady is shown with her cheek tenderly pressed to the cheek of the infant Christ. In this tradition the most famous icon is the one at the Moscow Cathedral.





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.**



*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: Bob James, Joe and Carol Murphy, Kathy Clagg, OFS, from St. Conrad (Hanover) Fraternity, Eileen Murray's son, Richard Churray's sister-in-law, Cathy, and Kelly Ann Lynch, former minister of Our Lady Queen of the Angels fraternity is requesting prayers for her daughter, Shannon, and yet to be born granddaughter, Claire.*

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





## March Franciscan Calendar— Month of St. Joseph

1. Bl. Jean Kearney, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1653
2. St. Agnes de Prague, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1282
3. Bl. Innocent of Berzo, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1890
4. Bl. Martyrs of the Franciscan 1st Order of Gondar (Ethiopia), d. 1716
5. St. John-Joseph of the Cross, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
6. St. Colette de Corbie, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1447
7. Bl. Christopher of Milan, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1485
8. St. Jean de Dieu, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1550
9. St. Frances of Rome, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1440
10. St. Catherine of Bologna, Virgin of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1463
11. Bl. John Baptist Righi of Fabriano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1539
12. Bl. Louis Orione, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1940
13. Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1236
14. St. Catherine of Genoa, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1510
15. Bl. Louis of Casoria, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1885
16. Bl. Torello of Poppi, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1282
17. Bl. Mark of Montegallo, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1496
18. St. Salvator of Horta, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1567
19. Saint Joseph, Holy Day of Obligation for the Church
20. Bl. Hippolyte Galentini, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1620
21. Bl. Amedee IX de Savoie, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1472
22. St. Benvenute of Osimo, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1282
23. Bl. Jeremy Lambertenghi, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1513
24. Bl. Catherine de Suede, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1381
25. Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation for the Church
26. Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1801
27. Bl. Joseph-Sebastien Pelczar, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1924..
28. St. John of Capistrano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1456
29. Bl. Jane Mary of Maille, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1414
30. St. Peter Regalado, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1486
31. St. Leonard Murialdo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1900

Holy Thursday – Plenary Indulgence: Chant in Public Tantum ergo Good Friday – Plenary Indulgence: Solemn adoration of the Holy Cross Easter – Plenary Indulgence: Renewal in public of Baptismal Promises

