

ST MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY
ORDER OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
THE ANGELUS * FEBRUARY 14, 2021



LENT 2021

Ash Wednesday— February 17, 2021

Let us love and console our suffering Jesus.



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 February ZOOM Meeting

Please join us as we have a very special meeting. We are blessed to have guest speakers, Catholic writers Kevin and Mary O'Neill, who authored the amazing book "Catechism of the Seven Sacraments" to teach catechism to children using legos and lego characters in dialogue. The O'Neills used thousands of their own legos (they have seven children) to construct and photograph each scene. The most amazing part of this whole story is that the book itself is a masterpiece of wisdom, knowledge and simplicity of communication.

Truly it is a wonderful book for anyone of any age to read.

It can be purchased at their website at www.storytell.org.



The O'Neill Family

Kevin and Mary O'Neill and their seven children are the creative minds and dedicated hands behind this book. When Kevin and Mary discovered questionable interpretations in a popular brick-illustrated Bible, they took matters into their own hands and created this book with the help of their children. Using thousands of their own toy building blocks, they constructed and photographed each scene illustrating the Catholic sacraments, while weaving a biblical narrative of salvation history.

The O'Neills will speak to us at 1 PM after our opening prayers.

Afterwards we will pray the Christian Prayer led by Tom.

Portia will then present and lead a discussion about Chapter 14 from "Live Like Francis" on the topic of reconciliation. Please read Chapter 14 in advance of the meeting!

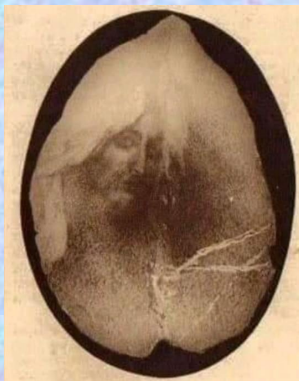
The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary will follow our meeting at 3PM, led by Porita and Carmencita.

“Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!”

—ST.JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Minister's Message

Greetings, my prayer this month is that we each and collectively have holy Lents which please and console our Lord. I am sharing some of the favorite quotes/pictures I have seen in the past few weeks with you and hope you also find them inspiring. I hope you can each join us for our February Zoom meeting It promises to be very inspirational on many levels. Blessings to each of you. Susan



**THIS ROSE PETAL
FOUND DURING THE
EXHUMATION OF THE
RELICS OF ST.
THERESE OF LISIEUX
IN 1923 WITH AN
IMPRINT OF THE HOLY
FACE OF JESUS TO
WHOM SHE IS VERY
DEVOTED.**

I plead with you—never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid.

- St. John Paul II -



What's your Bible verse for 2021?



"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58



**"YOU HAVE ALL
ETERNITY TO
EXPERIENCE THE
PRESENCE OF GOD,
BUT YOU HAVE A
VERY SHORT TIME
TO DO SOMETHING
FOR HIM."**

Mother Angelica

Our Zoom Daily Prayer Meeting continues every day at 3PM, led by Portia and Carmencita with Tom's assistance. We pray the Chaplet, the Rosary and the Christian Prayer.

Our February Birthdays, Monthly Mass for living and deceased Fraternity Members, and Prayer Needs

Submitted by Genie

Happy February birthday: 10 – Michael Oliver, 28 – Joyce Routh

Saturday, February 6th, 0830 a.m. at the Shrine of St. Jude - Mass celebrated for the living and deceased members of St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity.

Please.... Pray for the needs and intentions and ill and recovering members of our fraternity. We pray in a special way for Peggy who is having a serious surgery on the 22nd of this month, for Alina's sister Felicia who is hospitalized with Covid, and for all of our personal intentions.

Pray for the hungry in our midst by supporting St. Stephen Food Pantry at St. Jude's. (See www.facebook.com/St.Stephenfoodpantry).



PLEASE JOIN US AT 3PM ON THURSDAY MARCH 4th, AS WE PRAY ON THE PUBLIC SIDEWALK OUTSIDE OF LATE-TERM ABORTIONIST'S OFFICE IN BETHESDAY MARYLAND.

**WE PRAY NEXT TO THE EXXON LOCATED AT 10335 OLD GEORGETOWN RD, BETHESDA
PLEASE CALL SUSAN IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE DETAILS AT 301 525 1555..**

Continuing with my next several articles on the topic of the status and relevancy of the Franciscan charism in these current times, this is the second one based on the book, "The Franciscan Charism in the Third Millennium" by Fr. Anselm Romb, OFM Conv.

We left off last month speaking of the collaboration and coordination of religious order clergy and laity with the diocese clergy and laity to best maximize the collegial processes of missionary service of both to the Church. If the religious orders specifically were to make the effort to revitalize their missions to the Church through their charisms, those who are critical of their practices would have less reason to refer to the mistaken belief that the religious take the vows while the diocesan priests observe them.

But with some exceptions, the religious orders lately have returned to basic business after a time period of writings and dialogue, allowing their charisma to be lost in history while they pursue their more comfortable and manageable ministries. At the current time, this third millennium appears to be heading in this direction for most, if not all, the religious orders. Over the last eight centuries, our Franciscan family has also not been immune to discrepancies within the three main Franciscan orders. Early on in this historical period, we already know of the First Order dividing into three groups based on their emphases of ministries and services (OFM, OFM Conv., and OFM, Cap.). The Second Order Sisters also experienced diverging divisions and reformed regroupings. The Third Order Regular, especially among the Sisters, became out of touch with their common part in some of the specifics of the Franciscan charism. The Secular Franciscan Order have had difficulties—and still have the same—finding First Order and Third Order Regular clergy (and recently, well trained and suitable laity in the Secular Order) to function as spiritual assistants to counsel their

fraternities through on-going formation in the Franciscan charism. This led, unfortunately for some, to the regionalization of the Third Order Secular fraternities approximately thirty years ago. This discontinued their connection as affiliates of the First Order provinces.

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Fortunately, what remains as the primary mission in the Rules of all three orders is the renewal and reinforcement of the life of Christ as portrayed in the Gospel among all in the Franciscan family as originally modeled in the orders' founder of St. Francis of Assisi. Celano, one of Francis's most known biographers, recorded the following statement of his: "The Order is a very large society, which is like a worldwide convention joining together in a single lifestyle" (Celano's Second Life). The Franciscan charism has always been the common focus of all the jurisdictions of the three-part Order. It is hoped that a closer collaboration and unity will come about within the Order as flexibility and charity become more common. After Vatican II, the apparent division within the First Order over its ministries in the world, and in some cases, its loss of touch with it, began to fade. This is because active involvement of all religious within the Orders increased in post-Vatican II times. Within each of the three Orders, the lifestyle of one jurisdiction became more and more like the others. The Order now is so open a society, that the different levels and types of their ministries can coexist without apparent conflict. St. Francis knew that his charism was revolutionary. He states in one of his early document {Legenda Antiqua): "I do not want you to cite me any other Rule---not St. Augustine's, nor St. Bernard's, nor St. Benedict's. The Lord told me to become a new type of simpleton in the world. God did not choose to lead me along any other path than the way of experience". In another of his early documents (Celano's Second Life), Francis expresses his dislike of monastic and hermitical life: "I love my brothers to the degree I am able. Were they to follow my path, I would love them all the more and not alienate myself from them. There are some superiors that are drawing the brothers into different ways after the example of the ancient religious. These men are inattentive to my instruction, but what they are attempting will become obvious in the future. St. Francis referred to his Rule for all his brothers as: "the book of life, the hope of our salvation, our way of the cross, our key to paradise, the collateral of our glory, the state of perfection, the guarantee of our eternal testament, and the marrow of the gospel (from Francis's The Mirror of Perfection). Next month: We look further into what effect the division within the Order had on the Franciscan charism.

Mike

February is that month of dormancy, if not when we hibernate in our homes, then when we retreat into the sanctuary of our heart. Winter months invite solace and solitude, a time of rest and rejuvenation for the bustling spring and summer months ahead.

What better way to prepare ourselves for Lent (which arrives early in February this year) than to ponder these inspirational saints whose feasts we celebrate this month?

LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING
FEBRUARY FEAST DAYS!

St. Josephine Bakhita — February 8



For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed. Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan. Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his

friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later.

St. Blaise — February 3

Almost everyone in western culture celebrates Valentine's Day, though unfortunately without considering the fact that he was a saint. While there is a paucity of factual information about St. Valentine, we do know that he was born in third century Rome and was martyred after refusing to denounce his Catholic faith. It's likely the association between the saint and courtly love occurred as a result of baptizing the pagan holiday, Lupercalia, in the eighteenth century. Because his feast day is celebrated on February 14, that is what unofficially made St. Valentine the patron saint of happy marriages, engaged couples, young people, and love.

