



Our Lady of the Rosary
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Williamsburg, Virginia

www.olrsfo.weebly.com



Message from Minister— Maria Fuentes-Sherman, OFS

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

A Blessed Holy Week & Happy Easter to All!

For the last couple of weeks, in spite of the cold nights, my neighbor's crocuses have been peeking through the ground. Everywhere you look you see green starting to show - Mother Earth is coming alive again, renewing itself & us as well. Who does not smile at butterflies sweeping above you, or sweet bird songs? Who does not feel the joy & freshness of Spring in their heart?

Many years ago, when I was in a Catholic elementary school in Junction City, Kansas, the nuns taught us this poem, set to music:

Trees By Joyce Kilmer (the setting for the musing was written by Oscar Rasbach. You can hear it on Youtube played by Phillip Sear)

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who infinitely lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

The sisters always had a poem or tune fitting for each season. This one has always been one of my favorites. It reminds me of God's everlasting love & mercy for us. After the winter of Lent, he brings us into the spring of Easter. He renews us, forgiving our sins, & in his mercy through His Divine Son brings us salvation. What can we give in return? In the poem the tree "looks at God all day & lifts her leafy arms to pray". And there's our answer - look to God in all things, pray & acclaim His glory. What better gift can Easter bring? Forget the Easter Bunny with all his candy. I wish each one of us the renewal of spirit & joy of eternal salvation. God bless us all.

By the way, why is the Easter Bunny always referred to as male?

Pax et Bonum, Marla / QK

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in all the peoples of the earth, so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary, different faces of the one humanity that God so loves. Amen.

Pope Francis October 2020

Important Dates:

4/9 Theresa Krawiw—Birthday

4/17 Leo Wells—Birthday

4/18 Zoom Fraternity Meeting 1:00pm

Live A Life Worthy of Your Call

Secular Franciscan Order – USA
National Theme - 2021



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

Profiles: Leo Wells and Chris Wells

Leo Wells was born and grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended Cleveland Catholic schools graduating from Cathedral Latin High School and John Carroll University where he received a degree in Political Science. In between starting and finishing college he spent four years in the Air Force. He eventually joined the Federal Government with US Customs (now Homeland Security) where he became an International Trade Specialist in Trade Enforcement. He was transferred to New York and eventually to Washington, DC.

Chris Wells was born and grew up in Washington, DC where she attended Catholic grade school and graduated from Immaculata High School in DC. She went on to St. Bonaventure University earning a degree in French as well as a secondary ed teaching license and eventually earning a master's degree in Education Leadership from George Mason University. Chris has always taught in the Catholic school system both in the middle school and high school levels becoming principal of a Catholic elementary school for twelve years. It has always been her desire to give back to the Catholic schools for the education she received from them.

Chris and Leo met in DC, married, and moved to Fairfax County, Virginia where they had four sons. While they were members of St. Joseph Parish, a Franciscan parish in Herndon, Va. Leo became interested in the Franciscan way of life. He professed in Tau Fraternity at St. Joseph and encouraged Chris to join which she did several years later. Leo and Chris were members of Tau for many years. Eventually they retired from their jobs and moved to Providence Forge, Va. and then Williamsburg. They became members of Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity 15 years ago.

Both Chris and Leo have found the Franciscan philosophy and way of life very comforting and a great aid in their spiritual lives. However, since John Carroll University is a Jesuit institution and St. Bonaventure is a Franciscan University it has led them to many lively debates on philosophies and theology!

Profile: Donna Kendall

The name my parents had chosen for me while I was still in-utero, if I was born a female, was Maria Domenica Gallo after my maternal grandmother. My Italian-American godmother talked my parents out of this choice stating it was "too Italian." I wouldn't be able to assimilate very well into American culture with a name like that! So, my parents compromised, sort of. They changed my name to Donna Maria but assimilation did not take place for years to come.

In my home we only spoke Italian; we only ate Italian foods; we only entertained or visited Italian people; our doctors were Italian, and the church which we attended in Akron, Ohio (San Antonio di Padua) had an Italian priest who said Mass on Sunday *in Italian*. Incidentally, no such assimilation efforts took place when my younger brother was born - he was named Rocco Antonio. He had a different godmother who spoke little English if any at all.

My parents were both Italian immigrants from the Puglia region of Italy, a very impoverished area economically, but having no shortage of people with whom I am related. We would visit my family during summers and holidays and this experience delayed my full assimilation, perhaps permanently. It was not until I was five years old that I realized that I did not actually LIVE in Italy. I became aware of this on my first day of Kindergarten when I could not understand a word that anyone was saying - and they couldn't understand me. I came home from school in tears swearing I'd never go back. My mother told me that school is a privilege, that education was the most important thing next to God and family. She and my father had attended four or five years of school before they were sent to apprentices or working in the olive groves or tending sheep. Their parents had not attended school at all and could not read or write. Here in America, she told me, if children did not attend school the parents would go to jail. The next day I returned to school because I didn't want my mother and father to go to jail.

Profile: Donna Kendall continued ...

Within the first month I fell in love with school; I learned English rather quickly thanks to a patient teacher, Mrs. Harvey - I wasn't her first Italian student; I'm sure I wasn't her last. I loved everything about school - the lessons, the socialization, the challenges, and the opportunity to go to go to daily Mass in the morning before school began. I used to wake up a half hour earlier than I needed to so that I could get there on time for Mass. It was a curiosity because at St. Martha's and later Christ the King Mass was said in English.

From first grade on I knew I wanted to be a teacher when I grew up. At home I was appointed the task of teaching my mother and my younger brother how to speak English. I did not have the patience that Mrs. Harvey had so my brother would often end up in tears and said forget this! We still spoke Italian at home but sometimes my mother would encourage me to repeat everything in English. It wasn't long before English (reading, spelling, writing) were my favorite subjects in school and by high school I wanted to be an English teacher. In college I worked on my credits toward an English major but my adviser encouraged me to take on another major for the purposes of finding a teaching job. The market was saturated with English teachers at the time. Because Italian traditions dictate that mothers teach their daughters to knit, crochet, cook, sew, and keep house before they teach them to tie their shoes I found it easy to obtain a degree in Family and Consumer Science (aka Home Economics). I taught in this field at the high school level for many years until the education system cut budgets to vocational programs. At that point I returned to school and completed a Masters in English and Creative Writing. I taught English at the college level until a year or two after moving to Williamsburg.

Since 2006, I have also been actively publishing books. Most of my books have been heavily influenced by my faith and my family. After my visit to Assisi in 2007 I began keeping a journal on becoming a Franciscan, a vocation which was realized in 2017. I have written and published in journals and anthologies; I have published five works of fiction, two of which are stories about an Old Italian legend - *Old Befana*. I have also written non-fiction, one of which is a biographical account of my mother's life and journey from Mussolini's Italy to becoming a courageous and emancipated woman in America. Two children's books were published recalling incidents of life with my children and most recently I have published a fiction novel about Saint Francis of Assisi entitled "The Instrument" in which I place Francis and Clare into contemporary culture and imagine their conversions during our own time period.

This year my husband Jim and I will celebrate 40 years of marriage. We have two children and two amazing grandchildren. God, family, work (education) were the priorities that my mother instilled in me at a young age. I can never thank my parents enough for their outstanding example of faithfulness, loyalty, and hard work ethic.



20th Quinquennial Congress
The Franciscan Jubilee is Back on!
August 3-7, 2022
Phoenix, AZ

More information regarding registration and hotel reservation will be available soon.
<https://secularfranciscanusa.org/>

April 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 5, "Contemplation." 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 65. We will also look the March 26, 2021 Formation Friday email that we received. It asks us to reflect on the value of prayer and contemplation in our lives.

Formation Friday March 26, 2021

The Value of Prayer and Contemplation – What do you think?

We are moving from Holy Week into the Easter season, let us take some time to be inspired in our prayer and in thinking about why we pray and the result that it has. We can use our Rule and our reading of *Clare of Assisi* as inspiration then answer the questions below from your heart.

OFS Rule Article 4

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.

OFS Rule Article 8

As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do.

Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.

Questions for discussion or to answer in your journal

- What is the practical result of taking time for contemplation?
- What is the value of using the Liturgy of the Hours?
- What is the value of praying Scripture?
- Why is the Eucharist so important to us as Catholics and Franciscans?
- What is your definition of the purpose of prayer?
- How does your prayer overflow into your actions? (How are you transformed?)



Chaplet for the Release of Souls from Purgatory
St. Gertrude Prayer to Release Souls from Purgatory

(Each time this prayer is said, 1,000 Souls are released from Purgatory)

The Prayer of St. Gertrude, is one of the most famous of the prayers for souls in purgatory. St. Gertrude the Great was a Benedictine nun and mystic who lived in the 13th century. According to tradition, our Lord promised her that 1,000 souls would be released from purgatory each time the prayer is said devoutly.

The Release of Holy Souls Chaplet

The Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father,,,

Pray: Holy Souls pray for us as we pray for you.

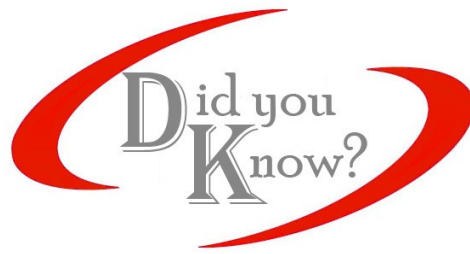
The Prayer of St. Gertrude said 10 times: *Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.*

Glory be to the Father...

(You can say this decade once or on all five decades of your rosary. If you pray this prayer using the five decades, you will release fifty thousand souls from Purgatory. Remember a majority of us will be there someday and we will want prayers said for us.)

Chaplet created by Bob Longo, OFS





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?

Which one is your favorite? Won't you share it with the rest of us?

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

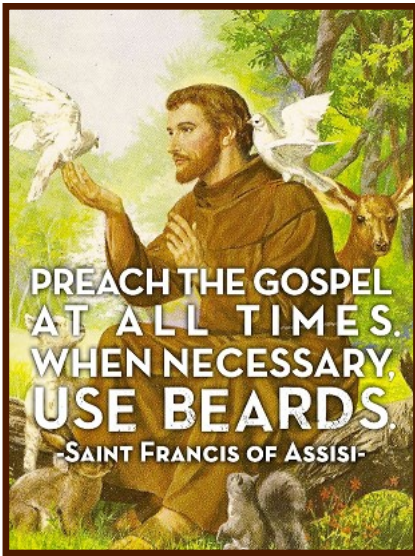
In the Assumption Cathedral in Moscow there is an icon of our Blessed Lady that has been the object of devotion since the 14th century, although the icon itself is much older. It is the icon of "Eleura, Our Lady of Tenderness". In it Our Lady is shown with her cheek tenderly pressed to the cheek of the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

Useless Catholic Trivia:

- The longest chapter in the Catholic Bible is Daniel 3 (Has 100 verses)
- 48 of 49 Popes named saints (Ludarius only venerated in Eastern Church)
- 21 Popes named John: 23 (Anti-Popes John 16 & first John 23)
- 4 Hebrew letters depict God's name
- There was a "Cadaver Synod" - Accused was dug up to stand trial



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
- Joan Buhler
- 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
- Frances Warren

Prayer Request



Please keep in your prayers: the repose of the Soul of Bob James and Joan Buhler. Also, please keep in your prayers: Valerie King, Susan James, Joe and Carol Murphy, Kathy Clagg, OFS, from St. Conrad (Hanover) Fraternity, 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 and Joe Messina, OFS, from our Blessed Carlo Acutis.

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



April – Month of the Holy Face and the Redemption



1. Bl. Elisabeth Vendramini, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1860
2. St. Francois de Paule, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d/ 1507
3. St. Benedict the Moor, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1589
4. Bl. Guillaume de Sicli, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1404
5. St. Crescentia Hoess, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1744
6. Bl. Angele Salawa, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1922
7. Bl. Mary Assunta, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1925
8. Bl. Julian of St. Augustine, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1606
9. Bl. Thomas of Tolentino and Companions, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1321
11. Bl. Angelo of Chivasso, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1495
12. Bl. Boniface Zukowski, Priest, Conventual Religious, martyr 1942
13. Bl. Isabelle Rovira, Virgin, Capuchin religious, martyr, 1937
14. Bl. Lidwyne de Schiedam, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1433
15. Bl. Gandolph of Binasco, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1260
16. St. Benedict-Joseph Labre, Confessor, Cordbearer, d. 1783 Plenary Indulgence for Cordbearers. Anniversary of the profession of St. Francis (1209)
17. Bl. Paul de St. Madeleine, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1643
18. Bl. Andre Hibernon, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1734
19. Bl. Conrad of Ascoli, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
20. Bl. Anastase Pankewicz, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1942
21. Bl. Francis of Fabriano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1322
22. St. Conrad de Parzham, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1894
23. Bl. Gilles of Assisi, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1262
24. St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest, Capuchin, martyr 1622
25. St. Marc, Grandes Rogations
26. Bl. Pierre De Pethancourt, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1667
27. St. Zita of Lucca, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1278
28. St. Paul of the Cross, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1775; Bl. Luchesius, 1st Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1260 Plenary Indulgence for Franciscan Third Order Seculars (renewal of Tertiary Engagements)
29. Bl. Benedict of Urbino, Priest, Capuchin, d. 1625
30. St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1842

