

**St Mary of The Angels Fraternity  
Order of the Secular Franciscan  
The Angelus \* APRIL 11, 2021**



*He isn't here!  
He is risen!*

Luke 24:6



**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**

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### Our April Zoom Meeting,

**Our guest speaker this month will be Diane M. Houdek**, a well-respected Franciscan author who edited the book we study and discuss at many of our meetings, "Live Like Francis". Diane is the director of content at Franciscan Media. Diane is the author of "Lent with St. Francis," "Advent with St. Francis" and "The Peace of Christmas: Quiet Reflections from Pope Francis." We are honored to have Diane speak to us.

Following Diane's talk, Tom will lead us in Christian Prayer. After that, if anyone wishes to say something brief in honor of St. Joseph, we will take a moment for that. I am hoping to have more such moments during his Holy Year. Then Carmencita will lead us in a discussion of Chapter 15 in *Live Like Francis*. Please study it before the meeting. Thank you! And thank you Carmencita!

The meeting will adjourn in time for us to start our prayer session at 3PM with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. This will be followed by the Rosary (as is normal for the prayer group). We hope you all can join us at least for the Chaplet since it is **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY!**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Happy April Birthday!

2 – John Doherty, 15 – Dick Schaefer, 18 – Portia Fiesta, 26 – Mary Badjo, 29 – Sonia Bernardo

#### Prayer Requests:

For the family of Aspirant Ahren Stephens on the death of his father;  
for Madonna Goody, recovering after a fall; For Susan's Mom;  
for the needs and intentions of all our fraternity members

Remember the poor among us with food needs:

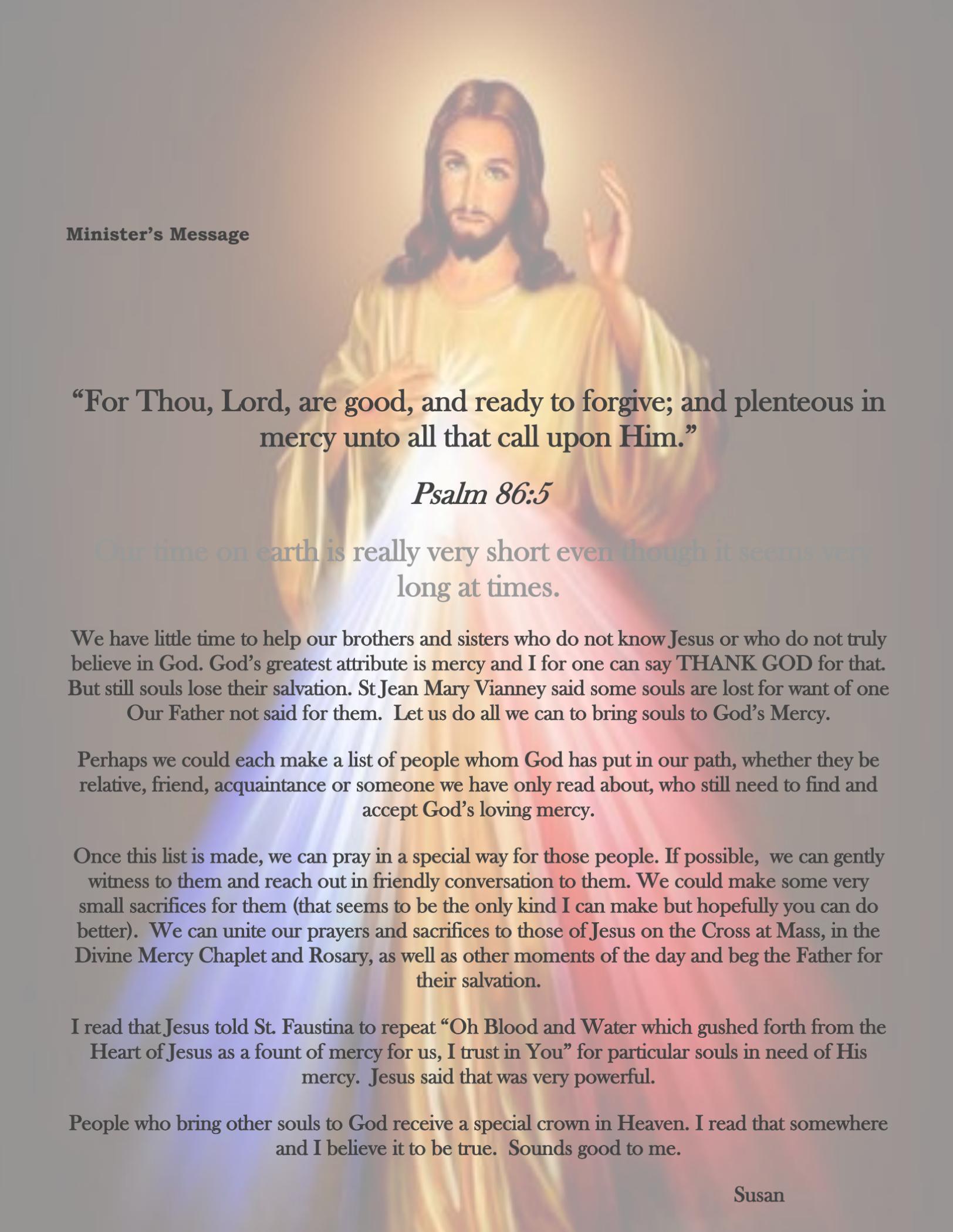
**[www.facebook.com/StStephenfoodpantry](https://www.facebook.com/StStephenfoodpantry)**

Our monthly Mass for the living and deceased fraternity members will be celebrated at the Shrine of St Jude Church on

**Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.**

Let us gather together!

**Blessings, Genie**



**Minister's Message**

“For Thou, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all that call upon Him.”

*Psalm 86:5*

Our time on earth is really very short even though it seems very long at times.

We have little time to help our brothers and sisters who do not know Jesus or who do not truly believe in God. God's greatest attribute is mercy and I for one can say THANK GOD for that. But still souls lose their salvation. St Jean Mary Vianney said some souls are lost for want of one Our Father not said for them. Let us do all we can to bring souls to God's Mercy.

Perhaps we could each make a list of people whom God has put in our path, whether they be relative, friend, acquaintance or someone we have only read about, who still need to find and accept God's loving mercy.

Once this list is made, we can pray in a special way for those people. If possible, we can gently witness to them and reach out in friendly conversation to them. We could make some very small sacrifices for them (that seems to be the only kind I can make but hopefully you can do better). We can unite our prayers and sacrifices to those of Jesus on the Cross at Mass, in the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary, as well as other moments of the day and beg the Father for their salvation.

I read that Jesus told St. Faustina to repeat “Oh Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You” for particular souls in need of His mercy. Jesus said that was very powerful.

People who bring other souls to God receive a special crown in Heaven. I read that somewhere and I believe it to be true. Sounds good to me.

Susan

# SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

April, 2021

This is the fourth of my next few articles on the topic of the relevance of the Franciscan charism of today. Again, based on the book, "The Franciscan Charism in the Third Millenium" by FR. Anselm Romb, OFM Conv.

Where we last left off with this topic was that the personality of its founder or foundress determines the development of an Order's corporate personality. However, the two personality concepts being considered here are most likely not interchangeable. We do not see the followers of St. Francis portraying the image of singing along with the swallows, hands filled with daises, and being trailed by wolves and rabbits like we see in Francis himself (As we read about some of his brothers, this image is not even close to their lifestyles). The freedom to be himself, however simpleton it may appear, was definitely an aspect of St. Francis that was inseparable from his enduring legacy to all his followers, both religious and lay.

Humorous accounts from early history of Francis and his brothers portray the simple Brother Juniper copy St. Francis in such personal actions as coughing when Francis coughed and spitting when Francis did among many others. This obviously was a misconception of the imitation of the Seraphic Father referring to his spiritual attributes and prayer life. No one imitating Francis today would likely copy such actions, but chances are St. Francis's manner is not entirely recoverable from historical accounts—historical accounts are rarely one hundred percent accurate. The biographers of Francis's life who used the many legends involving him did at times obscure the facts perhaps with good or biased intent. We read an account of St. Francis putting out of a house a sick brother that some of his other brothers brought in. In his Rule, however, we know him to have special concern for the sick. In another account, St. Francis sends Brother Rufino naked to preach in the cathedral as a test of his loyalty, but we know that also in his Rule, he admonishes his brothers not to obey a command that would be contrary to their consciences. In one of his writings, "Mirror of Perfection", St. Francis forbids a novice to have a breviary for prayer, but again in his Rule, a breviary is specifically needed for prayer. In St. Francis's "Little Flowers", compiled in the fourteenth century, he avoids Brother Elias as his future apostate, but Celano's more reliable and accurate biographical account of the thirteenth century depicts them as close friends. St. Francis even goes as far as appointing Brother Elias as the superior of the Holy Land and later as the same of the whole Order.

## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

April, 2021

As we know from the historical accounts, the next generation of Franciscans separated into several factions in accord with how they desired to interpret the Rule and Testament of our Founder. Their actuality have been claims that some writers of Francis who favored certain types of poverty or who were not too enthralled with Brother Elias's way he structured the Order, possibly fabricated their biographical accounts to verify their interpretations. St. Bonaventure, the sixth minister general of the Order, composed the "Major Legend" from 1260 to 1263 from those who survived St. Francis. But much of this writing is derived from the works of Celano who we know had a closer contact with the associates of St. Francis than did St. Bonaventure. Other biographies, in fact, were eventually no longer allowed to be used officially and in the instructions of the breviary as well. One of the purposes of the 1260 General Chapter was to address the factions of the Order which were publishing the inaccurate writings about St. Francis that reflected their personal views. Because of the relatively small number of miracles and extraordinary events accounted for in the Major Legend, St. Bonaventure was prompted to publish other and possibly less authenticated stories.

We will continue this topic of authentic accounts of events in St. Francis's life next month.

Mike

**Blessings on the many who came IN  
PERSON & ON ZOOM to pray with the  
SPRING 2021 “40 DAYS FOR LIFE”  
campaign to end abortion.**









## LET'S REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING APRIL FEAST DAYS!

### St. Francis of Paola– April 10



Francis was born at Paola, Italy and was educated at the Franciscan friary of San Marco there, and when fifteen became a hermit near Paola. In 1436, he and two companions began a community that is considered the foundation of the Minim Friars. He built a monastery where he had led his eremitical life some fifteen years later and set a Rule for his followers emphasizing penance, charity, and humility, and added to the three monastic vows, one of fasting and abstinence from meat; he also wrote a rule for tertiaries and nuns. He was credited with many miracles and had the gifts of prophesy and insight into men's hearts. The Order was approved by Pope Sixtus IV in 1474 with the name Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi (changed to Minim Friars in 1492). Francis established foundations in southern Italy and Sicily, and his fame was such that at the request of dying King Louis XI of France, Pope Sixtus II ordered him to France, as the King felt he could be cured by Francis. He was not, but was so comforted that Louis' son Charles VIII, became Francis' friend and endowed several monasteries for the Minims. Francis spent the rest of his life at the monastery of Plessis, France, which Charles built for him. Francis died there on April 2nd and was canonized in 1519. His feast day is April 2.

### St. Bernadette—April 16

On Thursday, February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood, when a very beautiful lady appeared to her above a rose bush in a grotto called Massabielle (Tuta de Massavielha).

The woman wore blue and white and smiled at Bernadette before making the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell to her knees, took out her own rosary and began to pray. Bernadette later described the woman as "uo petito damizelo," meaning "a small young lady.

Though her sister and friend claimed they were unable to see her, Bernadette knew what she saw was real. Three days later, Bernadette, her sister Marie, and other girls returned to the grotto, where Bernadette immediately knelt, saying she could see "aquero" again. She fell into a trance and one girl threw holy water at the niche and another threw a rock that shattered on the ground. It was then that the apparition disappeared. On February 18, Bernadette said "the vision" asked her to return to the grotto each day for a fortnight. With each visit, Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary and the period of daily visions became known as "la Quinzaine sacrée," meaning "holy fortnight." When Bernadette began to visit the grotto, her parents were embarrassed and attempted to stop her, but were unable to do so. On February 25, Bernadette claimed to have had a life-changing vision.

The vision had told her "to drink of the water of the spring, to wash in it and to eat the herb that grew there" as an act of penance. The next day, the grotto's muddy waters had been cleared and fresh clear water flowed. On March 2, at the thirteenth of the apparitions, Bernadette told her family the lady said "a chapel should be built and a procession formed."

During her sixteenth vision, which Bernadette claims to have experienced for over an hour, was on March 25. Bernadette claimed she had asked the woman her name, but her question was only met with a smile. Bernadette asked again, three more times, and finally the woman said, "I am the Immaculate Conception."



H A P P Y

E A S T E R