

**St Mary of The Angels Fraternity
Order of the Secular Franciscan
The Angelus * May 16, 2021**



**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: Susan Jamison**



May,
the month of
Mother Mary

Let's
imitate Jesus
in His love
for Our Lady
by offering her
“flowers”
of our
filial love
and affection
in the
little things
of each day!

Our May Meeting! In Person! Yay!

Our May Meeting will be on the third Sunday of May due to Mother's Day being on the second Sunday. We will meet IN PERSON at Susan's house at 11:30 for socializing and sharing food (please bring a dish or two to share) and then start our meeting at 1pm. Tom will use his internet skills to bring us the first half of the Online Formation Retreat of Father Richard Trezza, OFM. We will also pray the Liturgy of The Hours together. Hopefully, the meeting will be also held on Zoom for those who can't make it to Susan's house.

LOCATION: 16200 Edwards Ferry RD, Poolesville MD 20837.

301 525 15555

Congrats to Michael Huether and Mary Badjo who were both elected to positions in the recent Regional Elections, Mike to serve again as Vice-Minister of the Region, and Mary to serve as Area Councillor.

From Genie:

Our Monthly Fraternity Mass was held Saturday, May 1st at 8:30 a.m. at the Shrine of St. Jude.

Happy Birthday on May 24th to Connie Barrera.

Please pray for the needs and intentions of our all fraternity members, including Brenda who has been ill and is recovering from a very severe bleeding ulcer, and Hazel's husband Marty, with cancer. Please pray for loving endurance for the parents of autistic children, some of whom can be violent, and healing for all the ill little ones.

St. Stephen's Food Pantry at St. Jude's has been operating since May 2020 and averages 300 people a week. Needed are cereal boxes, canned items (tuna, chicken, soups, vegetables, tomatoes and fruit, boxes of pasta and sauce in plastic jars, macaroni and cheese. In addition, baby diapers (sizes 3-6) and wipes are always needed. You can also donate money at the church webpage at www.shrinestjude.org. See www.facebook.com/St.Stephenfoodpantry for additional information.

JUNE PROFESSION June 19th

We are delighted! On Saturday June 19th Michael Oliver, Michaella Sylla and John DiBenedetto will be making their final profession into the Secular Franciscan Order. This joyful and solemn event will take place during the 9AM Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church at Leisure World, followed by a potluck party at Susan's house (unless a more convenient location becomes available).

What a wonderful moment in the life of our Fraternity.

A shout-out of thanks to Father Michael for quickly responding to Brenda's being in the ICU by celebrating Mass the very next day for her! Thank you Father! Father continues to work hard to help the poor of Southern Maryland and recently brought in a freight truck filled with food, clothing and personal care items valued at between \$250,000 and \$325,000 to the Clinton area for free distribution to the poor. Yay Father!

Minister's Message

If you think you are doing everything possible to bring souls to Christ, such as fasting, offering continual sacrifices, prayers, Masses, First Saturday Devotions, etc. well GOD BLESS YOU! For the rest of us, let's keep reminding ourselves that our time on earth is very short but some souls out there are in danger of GOING TO HELL. They need us. Offer up everything to God as a prayer. I can't get over reading once that Our Lady of Fatima never smiled once at the children she loved.

She was very serious, and she pleaded for help.

And... Thank GOD that Brenda is ok. Let's keep each other in our prayers. Let's thank God every day for all He gives us, for all He is to us.



Here are Michael Oliver's comments on our recent speakers. Thank you Michael for answering my call for some reflections.

Robert Longo - As a candidate, Bob's comments on the importance of fraternity were informative and insightful. His remarks further solidified my discernment and certainty that the fraternity and OSF is absolutely right for me.

Adam Greenwell - It was very interesting to hear Adam's background and growth in the OSF. I was also impressed with his recent and current areas of focus. A great example of the truly global aspect of the OSF.

Kevin and Mary O'Neil - I loved their personal story, presentation and book (so much so that I ordered three - one for me and two for children/grandkids. What a great example of the Holy Spirit's amazing work and Kevin & Mary's willingness and courage to move forward to combat evil.

Susan Tassone - a wonderful speaker who I had previously seen on EWTN. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to her thoughts on Purgatory and plan to read her book. She brought a really uplifting message to us.

Diane Houdek - a truly wonderful person with a great personal story. Her OSF journey was inspiring along with the terrific work she performs as an Editor. We were blessed to have her join us.

Peace!
Michael



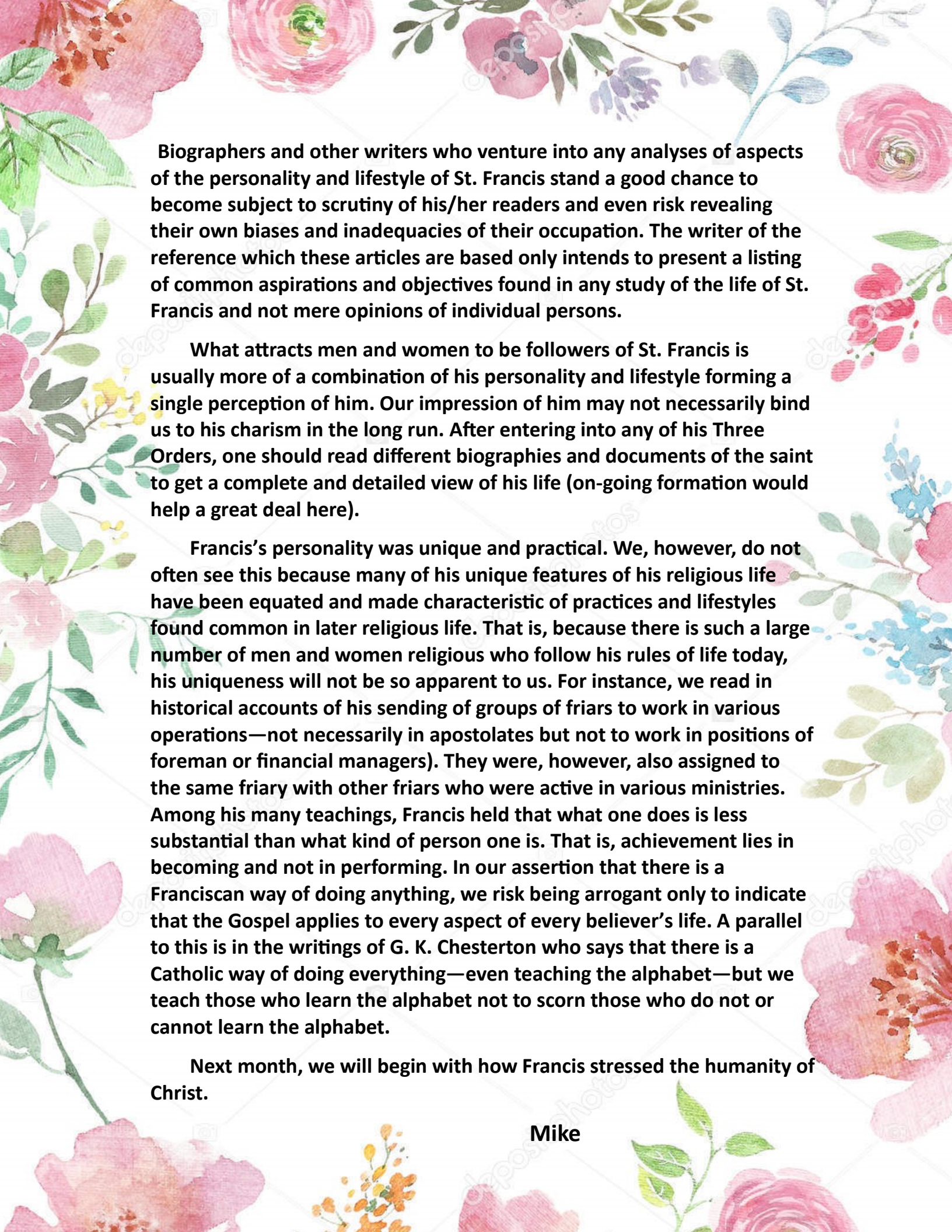
SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

May, 2021

Here is the fifth of my next several articles on the topic of the relevance of the Franciscan charism of the current times. I acknowledge, once again, the reference the information is taken from: "The Franciscan Charism in the Third Millennium" by Fr. Anselm Romb, OFM, Conv.

Continuing with written accounts of events in the life of St. Francis and their questionable authenticity, we find the "Book Of Conformities, authored by Bartholomew of Pisa and written somewhere between 1385 and 1390. In this writing, parallels between the lives of St. Francis and Christ are drawn such as having twelve disciples, the stigmata, etc. Also claimed supposedly was the mother of St. Francis, Donna Pica, being instructed right before the birth of her son, to have the child in a stable nearby their home. The friars' research in Assisi has since disproved this claim (Giuseppe Abate, OFM Conv., "La casa dove nacque S. Francesco d' Assisi, Casa Editrice "Oderisi": Gubbio, 1941).

Whether authentic or not, all these accounts are not without value in depicting the lifestyle and personality of St. Francis. Most probably came about from some basis of truth of the kind of impression St. Francis made upon his contemporaries. Expert researchers of historical sources have done most of the authentications needed of the events of St. Francis's life. The primary source was published by the Quaracchi College and converts the Rules, Testament, and other early writings. The real purpose of verifying the truth in all these accounts of events in the life of St. Francis is to indicate the writers' opinions about the difference between the personality of St. Francis to that of his Order. This may serve to draw all Franciscans closer together and afford the Second and Third Orders a perspective of the Franciscan charism which underlies their own approach to God.



Biographers and other writers who venture into any analyses of aspects of the personality and lifestyle of St. Francis stand a good chance to become subject to scrutiny of his/her readers and even risk revealing their own biases and inadequacies of their occupation. The writer of the reference which these articles are based only intends to present a listing of common aspirations and objectives found in any study of the life of St. Francis and not mere opinions of individual persons.

What attracts men and women to be followers of St. Francis is usually more of a combination of his personality and lifestyle forming a single perception of him. Our impression of him may not necessarily bind us to his charism in the long run. After entering into any of his Three Orders, one should read different biographies and documents of the saint to get a complete and detailed view of his life (on-going formation would help a great deal here).

Francis's personality was unique and practical. We, however, do not often see this because many of his unique features of his religious life have been equated and made characteristic of practices and lifestyles found common in later religious life. That is, because there is such a large number of men and women religious who follow his rules of life today, his uniqueness will not be so apparent to us. For instance, we read in historical accounts of his sending of groups of friars to work in various operations—not necessarily in apostolates but not to work in positions of foreman or financial managers). They were, however, also assigned to the same friary with other friars who were active in various ministries. Among his many teachings, Francis held that what one does is less substantial than what kind of person one is. That is, achievement lies in becoming and not in performing. In our assertion that there is a Franciscan way of doing anything, we risk being arrogant only to indicate that the Gospel applies to every aspect of every believer's life. A parallel to this is in the writings of G. K. Chesterton who says that there is a Catholic way of doing everything—even teaching the alphabet—but we teach those who learn the alphabet not to scorn those who do not or cannot learn the alphabet.

Next month, we will begin with how Francis stressed the humanity of Christ.

Mike

LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING MAY FEAST DAYS!

St. Dymphna — May 13

Dymphna was born in Ireland sometime in the seventh century to a pagan father and devout Christian mother. When she was fourteen, she consecrated herself to Christ and took a vow of chastity. Soon afterward, her mother died and her father - who had loved his wife deeply - began to suffer a rapid deterioration of his mental stability. So unhinged was Dymphna's father, Damon, that the King's counselors suggested he remarry. Though he was still grieving for his wife, he agreed to remarry if a woman as beautiful as she could be found.

Damon sent messengers throughout his town and other lands to find woman of noble birth who resembled his wife and would be willing to marry him, but when none could be found, his evil advisors whispered sinful suggestions to marry his own daughter. So twisted were Damon's thoughts that he recognized only his wife when he looked upon Dymphna, and so he consented to the arrangement.



When she heard of her father's misguided plot, Dymphna fled her castle with her confessor, a priest named Gerebran, two trusted servants, and the king's fool. The group sailed toward what is now called Belgium, and hid in the town of Geel. Though it becomes uncertain what exactly happened next, the best-known version claims the group settled in Geel, where Dymphna built a hospital for the poor and sick, but in using her wealth, her father was able to discover her location.

When Damon found his daughter was in Belgium, he traveled to Geel and captured them. He ordered the priest's head to be separated from his body and attempted to convince Dymphna to return to Ireland and marry him. When Dymphna refused, Damon became enraged and drew his sword. He struck Dymphna's head from her shoulders and left her there. When she died, Dymphna was only fifteen-years-old. After her father left Geel, the residents collected both Dymphna and Gerebran's remains and laid them to rest in a cave.

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St. Peter — May 19

He was Pope only about five months. Because he was so humble and simple, everyone took advantage of him. He could not say "no" to anyone, and soon matters were in great confusion. At last, the Saint decided that he had better give up his position as Pope. He did so and then threw himself at the feet of the Cardinals for not having been capable of governing the Church. What an impression his humility made on all of them!



St. Celestine hoped to live in one of his monasteries in peace. But the new Pope thought it would be safer to keep him where wicked people could not take advantage of him. The saint was put in a cell and died there. Yet he was cheerful and close to God. "You wanted a cell, Peter," he would repeat to himself, "and a cell you have." His feast day is May 19th



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Brenda Dawson has been ill and seeks a diagnosis for treatment and recovery.

Pray for Hazel Cummings' husband Marty, with cancer.

Pray for loving endurance for the parents of autistic children, some of whom can be violent, and healing for all the ill little ones.

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Blessings, Genie