



Our Lady of the Rosary
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Williamsburg, Virginia

www.olsrfo.weebly.com



2021



October Formation

This month we will continue to study Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter, *Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship*. Because we ran out of time last month, we will look at Chapters 1 and 2 this month. Please read the chapters and answer the questions that can be found in the study guide. All should have received an email with a copy of the guide.

Many of the topics covered in the Encyclical have both social and political implications. Please look at these questions and topics from a Secular Franciscan point of view. What would be the position of St. Francis on these topics. I am especially interested in your thoughts on Chapter 1 question 1. What resonates with you?

"If you learn everything except Christ, you learn nothing. If you learn nothing except Christ, you learn everything."

—St. Bonaventure



Important Dates:

10/2 Susan James — Birthday
10/12 Barbara Massey — Birthday
10/17 Fraternity Meeting 1:00pm
10/18 Ann Pepper — Birthday

Live A Life Worthy of Your Call

Secular Franciscan Order – USA
National Theme - 2021



Visit our website at olsrfo.weebly.com

Did you know?

Leo and Chris journeyed to Cleveland for a Cathedral Latin High School reunion luncheon and then gathered with family at a neat Irish pub on the west side. Lots of



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.



20th Quinquennial Congress Come Join for a Jubilee Celebration of Franciscan Joy

August 3-7, 2022
Phoenix, AZ

Registration is now open!

For more information and to register go to our national

website at: <https://secularfranciscanusa.org/>

October 3: Commemoration of the Transitus of St. Francis

St. Francis of Assisi died in the evening of Oct. 3, 1226. On this day every year, in the evening, Franciscans gather to remember the *transitus* (“passing”) of St. Francis from darkness into light. The format of the ceremony varies from place to place. It usually entails reciting of the story of the death of St. Francis according to his first biographer, Thomas of Celano, the singing of hymns, and gospel passages.

October 4: Feast of St. Francis of Assisi



On Oct. 4, the church celebrates the feast of St. Francis. Francis was an affluent young merchant from the Italian town of Assisi. One day while riding through the countryside, this man who loved beauty, who was so picky about food, who hated deformity, came face to face with a leper. Repelled by the appearance and the smell of the leper, Francis nevertheless jumped down from his horse and kissed the hand of the leper. When his kiss of peace was returned, Francis was filled with joy. As he rode off, he turned around for a last wave, and saw that the leper had disappeared. He always looked upon it as a test from God...that he had passed. In 1206, he renounced his wealth and social status in favor of a life dedicated to God and the least of God’s people.

Soon, others came to join Francis in his life. He had a simple rule approved by Pope Innocent III, showing how the friars were to live their lives. In 1223, a final Rule was approved, and this the Rule that the friars continue to live today. A man of action, at one point he decided to go to Syria to convert the Moslems while the Fifth Crusade was being fought. In the middle of a battle, Francis decided to do the simplest thing and go straight to the sultan to make peace. When he and his companion were captured, Francis was taken to the sultan who was charmed by Francis and his preaching. He told Francis, “I would convert to your religion which is a beautiful one — but both of us would be murdered.”

Francis’ final years were filled with suffering as well as humiliation. Praying to share in Christ’s passion he had a vision and received the stigmata, the marks of the nails and the lance wound that Christ suffered, in his own body. Years of poverty and wandering had made Francis ill and blind. It was at this time that he wrote his beautiful Canticle of the Sun that expresses his brotherhood with creation in praising God. Francis died on October 4, 1226 at the age of 45. Sts. Francis and Clare are considered the co-founders of all Franciscan orders. Francis is the patron saint of animals, merchants & ecology.



Prayer Request

Please remember to pray for a speedy recovery for our brother, Paul Reardon