

**St Mary of The Angels Fraternity
Order of the Secular Franciscan**

The Angelus

OCTOBER 17, 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: Mary Badjo**

Our October Meeting:

Michaella will lead us in a talk on Chapter 19 of LIVE LIKE FRANCIS. Please read this Chapter and be prepared to join the discussion.

Tom will lead us in Christian Prayer.

People who chose Franciscan Saints with OCTOBER FEAST DAYS should come prepared to present some meditations or share some information about their chosen Saints. This includes St. Francis!

We will finalize a new annual schedule for DOROTHY DAY DINNERS which will first be circulated by email.

Thank you to all who have helped so generously with our Dorothy Day ministry! It means so much to the residents to get a good hot meal.

Rejoice with them!

**Members celebrating THIRTY YEARS
as Secular Franciscans are
Frank Barletta, Madonna Goody, Joyce Routh,
and Alina Zygmunt!**

Happy Birthday!

**October 17 – John Di Benedetto;
21 – Frank Barletta;
25 – Carmencita Fiesta;
31 – Irma Jean-Baptiste**

Mass for the living and deceased fraternity members was celebrated at the Shrine of St. Jude on Saturday, October 2 at 8:30 a.m.

Pray for the needs and intentions of our members.

SOME BEAUTIFUL PICTURES TAKNE BY PORTIA DURING OUR
PLIGRIMAGE TO ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH IN EMMITSBURG ON
SEPTEMBER 11TH, WHERE AUREA AND JOHN TOOK FRANCISCAN
NAMES, FOLLOWED BY PRAYERS AND MASS AT THE GROTTTO,
AND THEN LUNCH. A VERY BIG LUNCH..... LOL.



**OUR FRATERNITY ONCE AGAIN PARTICIPATED IN
SIDEWALK PRAYERS IN FRONT OF CARHART'S
ABORTUARY IN BETHESDA MARYLAND AS PART
OF THE 40 DAYS FOR LIFE
PRO LIFE MOVEMENT.**

**Faithful attendees were Tom, Carmencita, Portia,
Sonia, Jamie, Aurea, and Lilian as well as friends
Janeth and Chatto.**

**We are not silent while full term babies are being
executed. We pray for all involved and
we believe in miracles.**



Celebrating St. Francis' Feast Day at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City.

Mass was beautiful and we were blessed with a first class relic of St. Francis. Lunch afterwards at the Ten Oaks Tavern was delicious. Please pray for our young waiter, Michael, aka Mickie, who is discerning a possible vocation to religious life but considers himself unworthy. That level of humility undoubtedly means he is capable of being very worthy. Susan promised him that we would pray for him.



LORD MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

This is the second of several of my next articles on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis. It is based on the book by Albert Haas, OFM, "Instruments of Christ, Reflections on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi", one of many books I have recently read. This month, we talk about the opening line of the prayer depicted above.

The first words and gift of the Risen Lord to his disciples, "Peace be with you"(John 20:19) is an Easter peace purchased at a high price—His crucifixion. Paul began his letters with this precious greeting with his own words, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"(Romans 1:7, I Corinthians 1:3, Philippians 1:2 and Galatians 1:3). The disciples were reminded that the Lord's death and all faithful servants of His were portals of peace for others. But this gift of the Lord means much more than the "absence of hostility" as the dictionary defines it. The six petitions of the Peace Prayer, dealing with hatred, injury, doubt, despair, darkness, and sadness suggest that the legacy of Easter Peace must reach down to the very roots of conflict and dissention, experiences which center selfishly upon ourselves and not on others we should be serving. The Peace Prayer clearly indicates that if we concentrate only on our wants, we will never enjoy Easter peace.

To be an instrument of peace, we need to be a peacemaker who is willing to look beyond ourselves and stop our tendency toward retaliation. Jesus states, "But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also." (Mathew 5: 39). So, we do not retaliate or seek revenge. Instead of focusing on ourselves, this internal pain we experience becomes a source of external peace for others. However, being an instrument of peace is not simply a passive biting of one's tongue or refraining from speaking up in order to keep the peace. We must become field hands or active agents intentionally sowing the seeds of peace among the world's distresses. As peacemakers for others, we are to take a prophetic stand by uprooting any source of hatred, injury, despair, doubt, sadness, or darkness that people tend to endure. Especially as Franciscans, we stand up and speak out against any and all forms of prejudice, discrimination, or injustice. We may at times speak with a tone of anger, but we never use or incite violence when working for peace, especially Easter peace.

Our goals as peacemakers should never involve manhandling our neighbors to force them to change. Our words, lifestyles, and actions should always prompt others to take that second or third look at their personal attitudes that oppress or exploit the weaker and marginalized members of society. A conversion and inception of justice is brought about by reexamining attitudes and societal structures as we move from self-centeredness to "other" – centeredness. We till the ground for justice before we sow the seeds of peace. In Matthew's Gospel, Christ identifies Himself with those who lack the basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, freedom, among others. Through our heavenly gift of Easter peace, disciples continue to touch the world by keeping their eyes, ears, and hearts focused on and aware of others who have practical and tangible needs. These responses are examples of the true meaning of social justice. It is the opportunity for each of us to live life fully in the here and now and it perpetuates the effects of Easter peace.

Whenever we pray the Peace Prayer, we become like farmers in the world. We "beat the swords (of our hearts) into plowshares and the spears (of our souls) into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:4). We ask for the grace to actively sow the seeds of peace and wait as faithful servants with great anticipation for the harvest of justice and peace.

Next month, we talk about, "Where there is hatred, let me sow love;"

**Peace,
Mike**

LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING OCTOBER FEAST DAYS!

October 22 — Pope Jean-Paul II

...Bishop of Rome and head of the Roman Catholic Church (1978–2005), the first non-Italian pope in 455 years and the first from a Slavic country.

His pontificate of more than 26 years was the third longest in history. As part of his effort to promote greater understanding between nations and between religions, he undertook numerous trips abroad, traveling far greater distances than had all other popes combined, and he extended his influence beyond the church by campaigning against political oppression and criticizing the materialism of the West.

He also issued several unprecedented apologies to groups that historically had been wronged by Catholics, most notably Jews and Muslims.

His unabashed Polish nationalism and his emphasis on nonviolent political activism aided

the Solidarity movement in communist Poland in the 1980s and ultimately contributed to the peaceful dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. More generally, John Paul used his influence among Catholics and throughout the world to advance the recognition of human dignity and to deter the use of violence. His centralized style of church governance, however, dismayed some members of the clergy, who found it autocratic and stifling. He failed to reverse an overall decline in the numbers of priests and nuns, and his traditional interpretations of church teachings on personal and sexual morality alienated some segments of the laity.



October 4 - Saint Francis of Assisi-

Born in Italy circa 1181, Saint Francis of Assisi was renowned for drinking and partying in his youth.

After fighting in a battle between Assisi and Perugia, Francis was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison — awaiting his father's payment — and, according to legend, began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, Francis heard the voice of

Christ, who told him to repair the Christian Church and live a life of poverty. Consequently, he abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the faith, his reputation spreading all over the Christian world.



Later in life, Francis reportedly received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ — marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he was crucified — making Francis the first person to receive such holy wounds. He was canonized as a saint on July 16, 1228. During his life he also developed a deep love of nature and animals and is known as the patron saint of the environment and animals; his life and words have had a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe. Each October, many animals the world over are blessed on his feast day.

Minister's Message

Greetings,

The beautiful summer is now turning to a beautiful fall. God is so good to share his bounty and beauty with us in so many ways during our sojourn on earth. I hope we all have a chance to savor the beauty of the season.

Yesterday, October 7, was the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Our Lady has promised to save all those who spread devotion to the Rosary.

I happened to open up "The Mystical City of God" by Venerable Mary of Agreda and read this about Our Lady:

As an answer to her petitions, He conceded to Her new and great privileges, among which was also this one, that, as long as the world should last, She should obtain all that She would ever ask for her clients; that the greatest sinners, if they avail themselves of her intercessions, should find salvation; that in the new Church and law of the Gospel, She should be the Cooperatrix and Teacher of salvation with Christ, her most Holy Son.

The status and many privileges enjoyed by Our Most Holy Mother are truly beyond our human comprehension. One cannot honor and love her enough.

So many of her beloved children are refusing to come to God; we can ease her pain by interceding for them to the best of our abilities. Perhaps we can also go outside our comfort zone and try to pray once a week in our homes (or with Zoom) with people don't normally pray the Rosary or who don't normally pray it with others. You can not be too passionate for souls in this life. And that kind of passion is so Franciscan!

Thank you to those who prayed and witnessed at the **40 Days for Life** sidewalk prayer movement. If I had given them the correct address, they would have had the signs. Sigh.

God bless. Susan