



Our Lady of the Rosary
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Williamsburg, Virginia

www.olrsfo.weebly.com



2021

Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Between being ill this summer, followed by this last surgery, it has been several months since I've sent a Newsletter Greeting. This I regret as I enjoy communicating my thoughts with you.

During this period we continued our journey via ZOOM, keeping in touch & deepening our understanding of Franciscan Formation. We finished our study of St. Clare of Assisi, Heart Full of Love & began Fratelli Tutti, both with insightful input & discussions.

Now, here we are, just finished sharing Thanksgiving & beginning our annual Advent, preparing for the coming of the Holy Child. It can be difficult sometimes to place our concentration on that holy event, especially when October begins the display of Christmas items in stores, pre-Black Friday sales galore & November's full blown caroling on the radio & just about everywhere. By the time that special day dawns we have been so assaulted, bombarded, saturated with "Christmas - the worldly version" we hardly have time to live the true meaning of this day. There doesn't seem to be enough time to celebrate each holiday fully!

Thankfully we have this time to slow down a bit & prepare. Yes, for home decorating & gifts purchasing; but more importantly to prepare ourselves, to remember whose birth we are going to celebrate. It is a period of contemplation. Many Churches have special Advent activities which help us prepare, and of course our own Friday Formation mail helps ground us in our Franciscan traditions. Take advantage of these offerings as well & as often as you can. Make time to gather with a friend or a relative to share time & prayer. Let's prepare ourselves for the coming of this Blessed Child.

Gentle reminder: don't forget to follow the rules for fasting on December 7th, in preparation for the Immaculate Conception observance the following day.

Please join us December 11th for a special celebration at St. Bede, 9 a.m. to 12:p.m. , Fr. Walsh meeting room.

Pax et Bonum to all, & an early Merry Christmas as well,

Maria

Important Dates:

12/11 Advent Retreat 9am-noon
12/15 Marie Stephan—Birthday
12/19 Fraternity Meeting 1:00pm
12/28 Rick Churray —Birthday

**Live A Life Worthy of
Your Call**

Secular Franciscan Order – USA
National Theme - 2021



Visit our website at olrsfo.weebly.com

Preparing for the Incarnation

Anne Mulqueen, ofs,

Regional Spiritual Assistant (Presented Nov 6, 2021 at Regional Chapter of Ministers)

1. Wake Up
2. Find a place of solitude and pray
3. Search your soul and repent
4. Determine your mission or purpose
5. Deepen relationships in fraternity
6. Seek truth of God in regard to Self, Who am I and who are You?
7. Speak Prophetically - Speak the Truth
8. Allow God to Change you
9. Know there is a Cross in Every Life

Advent is a Season of Expectation, Conversion, Waiting, Hope & the Promise of Peace. "the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming"



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/>

December Formation



This month we will continue to study Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter, **Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship**. This month we will look at chapters 3 and 4. 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. What resonates with you?

We will also have a short presentation by Robert.

Where do we find ideas and actions from Article 13 appear in Fratelli Tutti?



Advent Retreat

December 11th from 9am to noon



We will

pray,
rededicate our fraternity as we come back to live meetings,
renew our commitment to the Gospel life,
socialize with those we haven't seen in a while,
and other fun things

We will attempt another Zoom link and hope this next one goes better than the last. Please let me know if you are able to attend either in person or on Zoom.

Since we are giving Sr. Agnes Christmas money to distribute to her clients that they may purchase what they want, please bring a check made out to SFO. Any amount is appreciated.