

**ST MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY  
ORDER OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN  
THE ANGELUS \* APRIL 240, 2022**



**APRIL**  
Month of the Holy Eucharist

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**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**



## **AGENDA**

**GUEST MINISTER - CARMENCITA FIESTA**

### **I. INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS**

RITUAL OF THE SFO - FOR FRATERNITY MEETING  
OPENING PRAYERS -P.35

### **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A) MASS FOR LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS  
OF OUR FRATERNITY IS NOW OFFERED ON THE 3RD SUNDAY OF  
EVERY MONTH AT 11:00 AM MASS AT OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH.  
THIS MONTH'S MASS: -APRIL 17,2022 -EASTER SUNDAY.**

### **B) WISHING HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

APRIL 15 - DICK SCHAEFER

APRIL 18 - PORTIA FIESTA

APRIL 26 - MARY BADJO

APRIL 29 - SONIA BERNARDO

### **C) REPORT ON 40 DAYS FOR LIFE MARCH 22, 2022**

### **D) FOCUS ON APOSTOLATES**

EXPLORE WAYS FOR EVERYONE TO BE INVOLVED IN APOSTOLATES -  
EVEN IF PARTICIPATING AS A "PRAYER BUDDY".

**AGENDA Continued**

**E) 1) UPCOMING RETREAT PLANNED BY SONIA BERNA  
SATURDAY JUNE 11,2022 -9;AM -4:30 PM AT  
THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY WASHINGTON DC  
THEME: THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE**

**III. *LIVE LIKE FRANCIS - REFLECTION 24 -"*  
PRAYING WITH GOD'S WORD" BY AHREN STEPHENS,  
FOLLOWED BY GROUP DISCUSSIONS.**

**IV DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, PRAYING" BALM OF MERCY"  
BY CARMENCITA**

**V. PRAYER PARTNERS BY MARY BADJO**

**VI. CHRISTIAN PRAYER LED BY TOM**

**VII. CLOSING PRAYERS  
RITUAL OF THE SFO FOR FRATERNITY MEETING PAGES 36-37  
BLESSINGS BY MIKE HUETHER**

“HAVE A HAPPY DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY”

LET'S PRAISE THE LORD  
MAY YOUR HEART BE FILLED WITH LOVE  
MAY YOU BE BLESSED IN EVERYTHING  
WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND LOVE.

IN A VISION TO ST MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA IN 1935,  
THE LORD REVEALED A POWERFUL PRAYER "CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY" FROM  
THE  
DIARY OF SAINT FAUSTINA (1877, 1900, 1931)

SAINT JOHN PAUL II

THE CENTRAL PART OF THE MODERN DIVINE MERCY IS THE CHAPLET OF  
DIVINE MERCY WHICH OFFERS ATONEMENT AND IMPLORES MERCY FOR OUR  
SINS AND THOSE OF THE WHOLE WORLD. DIVINE MERCY IS THE LIMIT BY GOD  
ON EVIL, THE LOVE OF GOD IN THE FACE OF EVIL. POPE JOHN PAUL II EXPLAINS  
THAT CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY  
MEANS BRINGING THE WORLD THROUGH MARY TO  
DIVINE MERCY.

ON THIS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, WE ARE CALLED TO GAZE UPON CHRIST'S MER-  
CIFUL LOVE, WHICH IS GREATER THAN OUR SINS AND MISERIES.  
WE LIVE OUT OF THE ABCs OF DIVINE MERCY:

A - ASK FOR GOD'S MERCY- SACRAMENT OF RECONCILLATION

B - BE MERCIFUL- PERFORM MERCIFUL WORKS - SPIRITUAL AND CORPORAL

C - COMPLETELY TRUST IN JESUS BY RECEIVING JESUS IN HOLY COMMUNION.

LET OUR MERCIFUL SAVIOR EMBRACE US ALL  
AS WE PLACE OUR TRUST IN HIM.

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!  
SAINT FAUSTINA , I TRUST IN YOU!  
SAINT JOHN PAUL THE II, I TRUST IN YOU!

WITH GRATEFUL HEART AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD AS GUEST MINISTER TODAY. I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE JOURNEY OF LIFE IN OUR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY, SHARING GOODNESS, SINCERITY AND HOLINESS .

I PRAY ASKING THE LORD TO WORK THROUGH US TO BECOME INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE.

PEACE, LOVE AND PRAYERS

CARMENCITA FIESTA OFS

### Happy Anniversary!

35 yrs. - Carol Smith;

20 yrs. - Connie Berrara and Lilian Soriano;

10 yrs—Mark Weist;

5 yrs. - Hazel Cummings, Brenda Dawson, and Portia Fiesta

Prayers.

Please pray for Jim and Marilyn Wall, for Genie, for all the needs and intentions of our fraternity members, and for peace in our world.



Photo of Fraternity Members taken by Michael Oliver during our **40 Days for Life** Peaceful and Prayerful Vigil in Bethesda Maryland. In prayerful attendance: Carmencita Fiesta, Michael Oliver, Portia Fiesta, Lilian Soriano, Tom McGrath, and Susan Jamison

## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

April, 2022

### **AND WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY**

This is the eighth of my articles on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis. It is based on the book, "Instruments of Christ: Reflections on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi" by Albert Haase, OFM. This month, we will review the seventh line of the prayer listed above.

There are too many realities of life that always cause us grief: the plight of refugees, the sudden death of children, the loss of a loved one, the struggle with finances, the loss of a job or a disappointing result of a job interview, or even the loss of a favorite team in a ball game to name a few. As we focus upon ourselves when these events happen, we cannot help but think: "Has God abandoned us here?"

Sadness is our ego's knee-jerk reaction to unfortunate matters that remind us that we do not always get our way and that we are, in fact, not the masters of our own destinies. Sadness can be brought on by indifference. We dwell on our own self-righteousness, asking, "Why doesn't anyone care?" whenever we don't understand the apathy, lack of interest, or insensitivity directed toward others or ourselves. Experiences of hopelessness and distress are also times of sadness. When we are confronted with our inability to control the outcome of a situation, such as sickness and death, we may most likely say, "Why doesn't God help me?". Our prayers seemingly going unanswered among other disappointments eventually bringing us to a state of despair.

Our Father Francis called sadness the "Babylonian sickness" because he likened it to the Israelites time of sorrow in 587 B.C. when they were conquered, many killed, and many sent into exile in Babylon. They endured almost fifty years disoriented, without the Temple or Promised Land and essentially without God's presence. Francis suggested that when we are in such a state as the Israelites: exiled from the support of our beliefs, the familiar, the known, and comfortable, we are prone to the deadly sin of sloth, which causes us to give up and even resort to sinful pleasures such as sex or alcohol to ease the pain. The sadness, according to Francis, could be permanently damaging if not addressed..

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April 2022

To address the reality of sadness in our lives, the New Testament admonishes us to “rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4) even in the midst of suffering and tribulation (1 Peter 4:13). The Gospel of John also shows us an unlikely but intimate moment for Jesus weeping over the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:35) while watched by the crowd. They saw how much He grieved because they said, “See how much he loved him!” (John 11:36). But, He did not allow it to bring Him to the self-centered sadness that such events could potentially lead us to. Instead, it brought Him to exceptionally confident prayer bringing on joy in the midst of sadness.

This is because Jesus had the confidence that every aspiration of the heart and all prayers are noticed and heard by God lifting us from the sadness to the consolation of home. We need only to completely surrender it all to God.

Christian joy is not simply any emotion brought on by extreme pleasure. It does not depend upon good fortune nor made to offset hopelessness or disappointment. It goes beyond feelings and emotions: it is knowing that having prayed and surrendered to God, He hears the desires and hopes of our hearts and will respond in a timely and appropriate way. He is all for us and we must trust His heart. Joy bases itself on God standing watch over every situation in our lives and bringing on comfort with rod and staff. God is somehow always present in the midst of every tragic event in our lives with His waters of loving care and concern that never run dry. Sowing seeds of joy requires prayers of both assurance and confidence that God is looking out for us. Perhaps this is why our Father Francis considered any unfortunate event a time of “perfect joy”.

May the Lord give you joy!

Mike



## LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING APRIL FEAST DAYS!

### ST TERESA DE LOS ANDES APRIL 12

Teresa was born in Santiago, Chile. When she was baptized, she was given the name Juana. Her family and her friends all called her Juanita. She grew up in a large Christian family. Juanita was intelligent and attended school where she was taught by the Sacred Heart nuns. Juanita was a normal young girl. She was very happy, cheerful, and attractive.

She played the piano and participated in swimming and horseback riding. She had many friends and enjoyed playing jokes on her family and friends. She taught religion to the young children in her parish.

Juanita read about the life of the Saint Therese of Lisieux. This French-born saint, known as the Little Flower, was a Carmelite nun. After reading about this saint, Juanita decided that she wanted to serve God as Saint Therese had done and to become a Carmelite nun.

At age nineteen, Juanita entered the Carmelite monastery and was given the name Teresa. During her short life of twenty years, Teresa wrote many letters, sharing her thoughts about God with others. Teresa was very kind to the elderly and to the poor. When Teresa was twenty years old, she became ill and died. Teresa is the first saint from Chile. Teresa enjoyed doing many of the things children today enjoy doing. She went to school, participated in sports, and had fun with friends. She was an ordinary person, yet she focused her life on Jesus and tried to love others as He loves them



### St Gianna Beretta Molla

Gianna was born on October 4, 1922 in Milan, Italy. She grew up surrounded by a close-knit and loving family. Her father worked in a cotton mill to provide for his wife and eight children. Gianna's family was very religious, and Gianna would accompany her mother to daily Mass. Gianna was a happy child, although she struggled with her schoolwork and battled poor health.

When Gianna was a teenager, her oldest sister died at the age of 26. From this point on, Gianna began to take her faith more seriously. She realized that her faith could not just be a habit, but that she had to live her faith with joy. She began to make more time for personal prayer and meditation every day. Gianna took on a leadership role in the Catholic women's group she belonged to. She encouraged the other women to pray and find opportunities to help others. She said, "The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day." Gianna also became more diligent about her schoolwork. She thought about becoming a missionary to Brazil, but eventually decided that the best way to fulfill her desire to serve others was by becoming a doctor. She was drawn to care for mothers, children, and senior citizens in particular, and she eventually specialized as a pediatrician. Many of her patients felt that she was not only their doctor, but also their friend and confidante.



