



**April 2022**

Next Fraternity Gathering  
**April 25, 2022**  
In Person  
St. Joan of Arc Meeting House

**Agenda**

7:30 pm: Liturgy of the Hours  
Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist  
Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today. #120 on p.1637  
Antiphons on page 1194  
Psalms and Canticle on p.1394  
Reading, Responsory, Intercessions, Concluding Prayer on pages 1134-1135  
Antiphonarian -Anne Dulik  
Presider -Bonnie Ng  
Reader- need volunteer  
Ongoing Formation:  
Dating God - Chapter 8  
Creation pp.108-120  
Questions on page 120  
Facilitator-Stan Glodek  
Followed by Social

April Apostolate  
\$20  
Franciscan Center

As of this writing Margaret and her husband are still in Lorien getting therapy.

**Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region**

**Christ is Risen**



**Alleluia**

The reason why Christ died for our sins once for all, the just man for the sake of the unjust, was that he might lead you to God. He was put to death insofar as fleshly existence goes, but was given life in the realm of the spirit. He went to heaven and is at God's right hand, with angelic rulers and powers subjected to him. 1 Peter 3:18,22

**In the School of the Holy Spirit**

" Our blessed and glorious father Francis taught us in a remarkable way : to recollect ourselves in God, that is, to recollect our whole soul within the divine infinity. He was so filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit that the grace of the Holy Spirit animated all his works and actions."

St. Angela of Foligno

**Fraternity  
Information Table  
St. Patrick's Church  
May 22,2022**

On May 22nd the Fraternity will have a information table at St. Patrick's Church about the OFS and St. Padre Pio Fraternity. We will be present for the 10:30 Mass and the Noon Mass as well as afterward at the picnic. We need fraternity members to volunteer at these times to greet parishioners and answer any questions about the OFS and Padre Pio Fraternity. Please email Ginger to let her know what time you can help in this endeavor.

**April Professions**



- Anne Dulik 4/17/21**
- Roland Willard 4/17/21**
- Joy LaCour 4/19/21**
- Donna Willard 4/24/06**

## ***Forgiven, the transforming power of Confession***

Recently, I had the pleasure of completing a four part study on the Sacrament of Confession. This study was led by Deacon Ray Van Pelt and held in the Meeting House at St. Joan of Arc. It was an excellent opportunity to reflect upon where I am, to understand Reconciliation as an encounter with God's mercy, to further understand the rite of Confession, and to review the biblical foundations of sin, mercy, and the sacrament of Confession.

*Where are you?* focused on the fact that sin is breaking of a relationship with God, not just breaking a rule. There is guilt associated with sin which is not a bad thing as it can be God's way of getting our attention. We can handle our guilt by finding distractions, rationalizing our behavior, blaming others, or admitting we were wrong. When we sin, God seeks us out, just as He has from the beginning when he sought out Adam and Eve after their sin. "God isn't just a dry cleaner who cleanses our sins, He's a physician who wants to heal us." We need the grace of the Sacrament to be made better.

*An encounter with God's mercy* used the scripture story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:2-11). Jesus did not condemn the woman nor did He condone her sins. God loves us, sees us as we are and knows we need the tangible experience of mercy and forgiveness. Not only are our sins forgiven in Confession, God wants to address the root causes of our sin and heal the wounds in the soul caused by sin. Confession offers a new beginning as we encounter Jesus in the sacrament and He offers us His mercy. Jesus gave the apostles his own authority and power to forgive sins (Matthew 18:18, John 20:23, Luke 10, James 5:13-15, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20). The priest acts in the "Person of Christ the Head".

*The Rite Explained* discussed making a proper examination of conscience. We must review not only the 10 Commandments, but the Beatitudes, and the Spiritual Virtues. We must look at what we have done (sins of commission) as well as what we have failed to do (sins of omission). We should be honest and humble, not humiliated by our sin. The Seal of Confession offers absolute confidentiality. The priests in the video stressed that penitents do not "shock" them with their sin and most priests forget what they hear in the confessional. (Fr. Willie assured us of this in the fourth session!) Praying the Act of Contrition is like a formal apology, and our penance is an act of love and thanksgiving in response to God's forgiveness. Through our reconciliation with God and His Church, we face the truth of our weakness and reliance on God's grace, are reconciled to Christ, and are given the freedom to love. The Absolution prayer is the moment of forgiveness when the Priest carries out the ministry of the Church, and is an extension of Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and healing.

*Biblical foundations of sin, mercy, and the sacrament of Confession* provided resources for us to answer common questions about Confession. Fr. Willie Franken, Pastor of St. Joan of Arc, attended the session to answer any questions we might have. Although I have studied about

Reconciliation previously, these sessions offered new insight into the beauty and necessity of this sacrament. They also offered an opportunity to engage and pray with fellow Catholics.

Previously, I had participated in *Presence, the Mystery of the Eucharist*. Both studies accessed the FORMED website; "Catholic Faith on Demand", which has been purchased by St. Joan of Arc for all to access. Formed offers include Catholic movies, children's programming, audio dramas and books, Bible studies, sacramental prep materials, documentaries, books and audio talks from leading Catholic experts. FORMED can be accessed via mobile phone, tablet, or connected TV device. FORMED is managed by the Augustine Institute, serving the formation of Catholics for the New Evangelization. Through their academic and parish programs they seek to equip Catholics intellectually, spiritually, and pastorally to renew the Church and transform the world for Christ.

To sign up for FORMED, go to the parish website at: <https://stjoanarc.org/next/grow/formed> Follow the prompts and instructions and watch the "sign up video" if needed. You can sign up FREE as a parishioner of SJA (even if you are at another parish just sign up as a SJA parishioner).

Ginger Bahr, O.F.S.

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#### Prayer Intentions

Sr. Airman Samuel Wenke  
Margaret Wise  
Mary Simmons and  
family  
Ron Teller  
Jeffrey Teller Jr.  
Wes Wise  
Catherine Fischer  
Margaret Wise's mother  
Ruth  
Armando- Ginger's  
father  
David- Anne's husband  
Richard Elliott and his  
family  
Joan Jackson  
For all those in our Book  
of intentions

Joan is out of the hospital  
and in rehab at Oakcrest.

#### St. Mark -Evangelist

Our Gathering this month is on the Feast of St. Mark. "John Mark was a disciple of St. Peter who followed Peter to Rome and later (according to tradition went to Egypt. He was very close to Peter: Peter calls him " my son Mark" at the end of his first letter (1 Peter 5:13).

St. Mark wrote his Gospel based on the stories St. Peter had told him. The main audience was probably the Gentile Christians in Rome. One tradition has it that Peter was so pleased with Mark's work that he had copies of Mark's Gospel made for all the churches.

Of the four Gospels, St. Mark's is the shortest and

many scholars believe it was the earliest. Many also believe that St. Matthew and St. Luke used it as a source for writing their own Gospels. It is true that certain passages appear word for word in all three of the "synoptic" Gospels.

St. Mark's Gospel tells the story of Jesus' life in a straightforward way. Although he includes many of the words of Jesus, Mark is more interested in what Jesus did. Throughout, we see Jesus leading us- the New Israel- on a New Exodus."

*Understanding Sacred Scripture. The Didache Series Semester Edition.* By Scott Hahn, Ph.D.. Midwest Theological Forum. Downers Grove, IL. 2010-2019. Pages 26-

## Maryland Catholic Conference Respect for Life Legislation

### **HB 1171 - opposed | bill failed**

Abortion constitutional amendment bill intended to enshrine abortion in the Maryland Constitution

### **HB 0626 - opposed | bill failed**

This bill would have allowed late-term abortion for any reason (even beyond health or fetal abnormality) and with no responsibility

### **HB 83/SB 29 - supported | passed**

This legislation increases the minimum legal age to marry

### **HB 50 – opposed | bill failed**

This bill would have required Catholic hospitals to perform abortions

### **HB 1080/SB 778 - supported | passed**

Medical care and other health services will be provided to low-income noncitizen pregnant women to help them have healthy babies

### **HB 282 & HB 288 – supported | passed, signed into law by Governor**

These bills exempt baby products and diapers from state sales and use taxes.

### **This bill was opposed which sadly was passed by the General Assembly:**

### **HB 937 - opposed | passed, Governor veto, override of veto**

This new law allows non-physicians to perform abortions and expands insurance coverage of abortion for some employers

## Minister's Message

A Blessed and Happy Easter Season to my brothers and sisters! The Risen Christ confirms that our Catholic Faith is true. Despite the darkness in the world, it is a season to be joyful, to be renewed and live without fear. As Spring bursts forth with new life in nature, let us cultivate these 50 days of Easter with renewed hope, faith and love. The second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus is inviting us to be close to Him and seek His Mercy. What a gift! Jesus told St. Faustina " ***My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (Diary no.699).*** We are all in need of God's mercy; we are all poor sinners; and our Lord desires to draw us to Himself through His mercy and love. What an awesome loving God! Let us answer Jesus' call and through His mercy be renewed with His grace and love with hearts trusting in Him.

Bonnie Ng, O.F.S.