

**THE ST. JOSEPH FRATERNITY OF  
THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS**

**ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION  
"ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARI"**

**THE FRANCISCAN SPIRIT NEWSLETTER**

**May 2022**

**Next Meeting: March 7th at 10:00 am  
At Neumann Hall (behind the Old Church**

**Saint Yves of Brittany – May 19th**

Yves, or Ivo, was born of noble parents in Brittany in 1253.

To the study of theology Yves joined the study of civil and ecclesiastical law. He applied himself so diligently to his studies that his instructors and fellow students marveled at his knowledge, but he was much more intent on acquiring virtue and piety. Not only did he go to church in the morning to attend holy Mass, but every evening he performed his devotions there. He drank no wine, and his pastime consisted in visiting the sick in the hospitals.

After he had completed his studies, Saint Yves of Brittany was assigned to the diocese of Rennes, and later his bishop appointed him judge of the church court of his native diocese of Treguier. Although Yves in his humility did not desire it or ask for it, the bishop of Treguier also ordained him a priest and entrusted him with a parish.

As judge, the young priest-lawyer always let justice hold sway without regard to persons, and the wisdom of his decisions was remarkable. He did not derive this wisdom only from his learning, but he prayed often and long for enlightenment. Before making grave decisions, he always said a Mass in honor of the Holy Ghost. By preference he helped the poor, the widows, and the orphans to obtain justice, even when the duty of his office did not oblige him to help. As a son of St Francis, to whose Third Order he had been admitted, he felt particularly attracted to the poor, and interested himself in their needs with such zeal that he was called the attorney of the poor.

Here the poor were his special friends. His home was an open guest-house for the poor, the blind, the lame, and the helpless of the entire vicinity. During a famine God almighty came to the assistance of his generosity by visible miracles. A flour bin which a domestic had found empty was found filled when Yves himself went with the domestic to examine it. Once he fed two hundred hungry persons with seven loaves of bread; at another time he fed twenty-four persons with a small loaf.

Saint Yves of Brittany's labors and his strict life sapped all his energy. He was hardly fifty years old when he felt his end nearing. He died with a smile on May 19, 1303. His body was entombed in the cathedral of Treguier. The finest eulogy was tendered him by the poor, who flocked in great numbers and raised such lamentations that all present were deeply touched.



**Saint Yves of Brittany**

**HAPPY EASTER!**

Birthdays:

- none

Prayer Intentions:

- Maggie & Her Family
- Lynn & Her Family
- Pat Budzinski
- Joseph Sampson in Ghana
- The refugees & others affected by the Ukraine Russian conflict

May Meeting: 9:00 am Mass at St. John's & then meeting in Neumann Hall

Formation: We will be having Elections at this meeting. Also Please bring your Crown Rosaries.

***"All Saints have a past; All sinners have a FUTURE." (Fr. Mark Wilke, Easter Homily)***

## From “The General Constitutions of The SFO” – Article 17-3

*“Those who are called to carry out the mission of catechists, presiders of ecclesial communities, or other ministries, as well as the sacred ministers, should make the love of Francis for the Word of God their own, as well as his faith in those who announce it, and the great fervor with which he received the mission of preaching penance from the Pope.”*

### Donna’s Message -

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to wish you a Happy Easter. May God grant you many blessings this Easter season. As did the Holy Spirit on Pentecost enter the apostles, so may The Holy Spirit enter you and show you your path in this life. Our world and nation are in deep turmoil. Let us pray and stay close to our Lord, he will protect you.

I know we have had problems in our own fraternity with people leaving and sickness, but remember Jesus said “pick up your cross and follow me”. My husband and I had our own medical problems, sometimes I thought this was the end, but then turned the corner and the day was beautiful again. Like Florida, the sun always shines, even when there are clouds, the sun always returns to brighten your day.

So let’s keep each other in our prayers. Give each other a little sunshine.

Peace and God Bless

Donna - Spiritual Assistant

### The Encyclical Letter, “DEUS CARITAS EST” (God is Love) of Pope Emeritus BENEDICT XVI

17. True, no one has ever seen God as he is. And yet God is not totally invisible to us; he does not remain completely inaccessible. God loved us first, says the Letter of John quoted above (cf. 4:10), and this love of God has appeared in our midst. He has become visible in as much as he “has sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him” (1 Jn 4:9). God has made himself visible: in Jesus we are able to see the Father (cf. Jn 14:9). Indeed, God is visible in a number of ways. In the love-story recounted by the Bible, he comes towards us, he seeks to win our hearts, all the way to the Last Supper, to the piercing of his heart on the Cross, to his appearances after the Resurrection and to the great deeds by which, through the activity of the Apostles, he guided the nascent Church along its path. Nor has the Lord been absent from subsequent Church history: he encounters us ever anew, in the men and women who reflect his presence, in his word, in the sacraments, and especially in the Eucharist. In the Church's Liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has “loved us first”, love can also blossom as a response within us.

## **FRANCISCAN TEACHINGS**

### Resurrection Song

At the heart of the story on Easter Sunday is the empty tomb. Somewhere in the darkness of the Easter Vigil and the pale dawn of Easter Sunday, each of us must confront the empty tomb and discover for ourselves the Risen Christ. Pope Francis reminds us that our joy in the Risen Christ calls us to a quiet love and service, wrapped in the awareness that our life in Christ needs no trumpets or pomp and earthly glory. We have a peace in our hearts that is stronger than death itself. All our hope lies in that promise.

— from the book The Hope of Lent: Daily Reflections from Pope Francis

by Diane M. Houdek

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**Father Stu Long, Icon and Ambassador of Divine Mercy** by Fr. Roger Landry, National Catholic Register

Thanks to Mark Wahlberg's new movie, Father Stu, the world outside of Helena, Montana, is being introduced to an extraordinary story of an ordinary man to whom God, contrary to worldly and ecclesial logic, gave the vocation to the priesthood and through whom God was able to meet, strengthen and sanctify many over his six-plus years of priestly labor. And through the interest Father Stu is generating as a result of Wahlberg's perseverance, personal investment, financial risk and faith, God is able to reach and inspire millions more.

In Father Stuart Long, we have a convert whose life was a commentary on Jesus' words "repent and believe," who resolutely promoted the Church's teachings on abortion, sexual morality and euthanasia and who, despite being ordained a priest with a crippling rare disease, continued to fight the good fight, finish the race in a wheelchair, and keep the faith by zealously passing it on long past the time when self-pity and simple human weakness might have stopped most others.

In brief, however, after growing up in Helena, winning a Golden Gloves amateur boxing title, graduating with degrees in English literature and writing, moving to Hollywood in search of movie stardom, and working as a bartender, bouncer and security guard, this fun-loving, strong, self-confident, kind-but-worldly 30-year-old had his life upended in a life-threatening motorcycle accident. When he recovered, he was convinced that his life had been saved for a reason. He started to search for that reason.

A desire to wed his live-in girlfriend, Cindy, who would only marry in the Catholic Church, led him to enroll in classes to become a Catholic. As he was being baptized at the Easter vigil in 1994, he felt God calling him to become a priest. To test that call, he taught at a Catholic school for a few years, then gave away all he had and joined the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in New York, discerned a call to diocesan priesthood, was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Helena, and was sent to Mount Angel Seminary in Portland, Oregon.

Around the time he was ordained a transitional deacon in December 2006 and made his lifetime promises of celibacy, prayer and obedience, he started to experience various physical difficulties, which were eventually diagnosed as inclusion body myositis. Because of Church law that requires candidates to ordination to be physically and psychologically healthy to fulfill their priestly duties (Canon 1051), the seminary recommended that he not be advanced to priestly ordination. He made a pilgrimage to Lourdes in search of a physical miracle, but the grace he received was spiritual: a peaceful conviction that God was with him and a desire to suffer with Christ whatever Christ willed.

Upon returning, he also received another gift: Bishop George Thomas of Helena told him that he had decided to overrule the seminary's recommendation, convinced in prayer that the Lord wanted Stu to be an icon of Christ, the Suffering Servant, and show the redemptive power of Christian suffering. At the end of his Dec. 14, 2007, ordination, during which he needed crutches, Father Stu matter-of-factly preached, "I stand before you as a broken man. Barring a miracle, I'm going to die from this disease, but I carry it for the cross of Christ, and we can all carry our crosses."

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**Pro-Life Advocates Mourn Vicki Thorn, Founder of Project Rachel Healing Ministry**

Thorn found Project Rachel, a groundbreaking post-abortion healing ministry that started in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and has since spread to dioceses across the U.S. and around the world. A Catholic pro-life pioneer, international speaker, author, and a member of the Pontifical Academy of Life, Thorn died Tuesday, April 20. She was 72. Her unexpected death has shocked and saddened the pro-life community, and generated a flood of tributes on social media. "As founder of Project Rachel, Vicky brought more post-abortive people to a place of healing than any other human being that has walked the earth since the fatally flawed Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. She was a force for good and will forever be remembered and loved by many."