

**St Mary of The Angels Fraternity
Order of the Secular Franciscan
The Angelus
OCTOBER 16, 2022**



**Minister: Susan Jamison
Vice-Minister: Sonia Bernardo
Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether - Formation Director: Tom McGrath
Secretary: Portia - Treasurer: Carmencita Fiesta
Counselors: Lilian Soriano, Mary Bajo & Irma Jean-Baptiste
The Angelus: Mary Badjo & Susan Jamison**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our October Meeting will begin with social time at 12:30.

Father Michael Briese will be our guest speaker.

Susan will also be presenting, and thanking the present council for their service, that is Sonia—Vice Minister, Mike—Spiritual Assistant, Carmencita—Treasurer, Portia—Secretary, Tom—Formation Director, and Mary, Lilian And Irma our Counselors.

Wonderful input and dedication from each of these fine folks that made it all work.

**We will pray together the Secular Franciscan
Renewal Of Commitment Prayer.**

We will Discuss the Elections.

OCTOBER WINTER COAT & CLOTHING DRIVE

The Coat Drive to benefit the poor helped by Father Michael's Mission is on! The adult and children's coats should be in clean and good used condition!

The Clothing Drive to benefit the immigrants arriving from the border states is on! The adult and children's coats should be cold weather seasonal, clean and in good used condition! These will be dropped off at St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill on October 19th.

We want to thank again everyone who helped us in the past with our Dorothy Day Dinners. It was sad to see this apostolate end with the closing of the Shelter but we were faithful for so many years.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

**17th— John Di Benedetto, 21st – Frank Barletta;
25th – Carmencita Fiesta; 31st – Irma Jean-Baptiste**

OUR MONTHLY MASS

The monthly Mass for our living and deceased members will be on our meeting day Sunday October 16th at 11 AM at Our Lady of Grace Church.

October 7 - Our Lady of Rosary



Minister's Message:

Let us really endeavor to pray our Renewal Prayer at our October Meeting with sincerity and fervor.

I learned pretty quickly after my profession that I will never be the firebrand Franciscan I dreamed of being when I first became a Franciscan... that I thought I should be.

I can still try to capture some special moments imitating Francis....

Do you remember how St. Francis spent the night praying with fervor "My Lord and My God!" in front of St. Bernard?

I can do that too! During my senior insomnia moments!

There are priceless moments in every day & night that are so inherently Franciscan.

Renewal of Commitment Prayer For Secular Franciscans

“Let us bless our Lord and God, living and true; to him we must attribute all praise, glory, honor, blessing, and every good forever.”

We thank you, Lord, for calling us to the Secular Franciscan Order. We ask your pardon for all our shortcomings, weaknesses, and transgressions against our commitment to the gospel life and against the Rule.

We pray that you will allow us to experience once again the fervor and readiness of that first day when we entered the fraternity. We renew once again our commitment to the gospel life, according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, until the end of our days.

Grant also that we may live in harmony with our brothers and sisters and may give witness to younger people of the great gift we received from you: our Franciscan calling to “go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church’s mission among all people proclaiming Christ by our life and words.”

“All praise be yours, O Lord, through all that you have made.” Amen.

This is a simple renewal prayer, There is another on pages 28 to 29 of our Ritual Book. Please take a few minutes, at least, to prayerfully pray both of them and meditate on them before our October Meeting. We will pray one of them together.

Please bring your Ritual Book.

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER, 2022

Hello, Everyone! This is the second of my series of articles on the Stigmata of our Father Francis. This series is based on the reference of "Franciscan Perfection" by Ce'saire de Tours, OFM Cap. With a translation by Paul Barrett, OFM Cap. In the first article, I introduced three effects of the Stigmata on the life of Francis. We now will discuss them in detail.

First Effect

On Alverna, St. Francis received a complete pledge of his mystical union with Christ because Christ gave him all that He suffered: the nails of His hands and feet which He placed in that of His faithful servant and the piercing of His divine heart which He bestowed on Francis by opening in his side a gaping wound of a similar nature to that of one inflicted by the soldier's lance on Calvary. Thus, the Lord's wounds became the wounds of Francis. So, when our Father Francis came to contemplate the Crucified Christ, he only had to look upon his pierced flesh. When he wished to feel the pain and suffering of our Lord, he only had to bear the pain he felt in his hands, feet, and bleeding side. His thoughts turned immediately to Christ who had formed these living nails and pierced his flesh. By completely concentrating on the Savior's sufferings, he enraptured himself in a seraphic ecstasy. It made him dead to the world, feeling the effect of the same promise made by the Crucified Christ to the Good thief: "This day, you shall be with me in paradise" (Luke 23: 43)

Second Effect

After St. Francis received the sacred Stigmata, he was also given many of the gifts of a glorified body, especially that of brightness and agility. Our seraphic Doctor Bonaventure describes it as such comparing it with the Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor: "Francis was seen praying at night, with his arms seen extended in a form of a cross, and his whole body raised from the earth and surrounded by a luminous cloud, the awe-inspiring light about his body being a witness to the wonderful enlightenment of his mind." He also said that Brother Leo, who witnessed this mysterious levitation of Francis, prostrated himself on the ground, kissing where Francis's feet had touched, and cried out, "O God, be favorable to such a sinner as I, and cause me to find mercy through the merits of this most holy man."

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Third Effect

Francis was given the prerogative of original justice when he received the Stigmata. By it, his flesh no longer had to retain any of the shameful effects of original sin. His body, once purified, consecrated, and sanctified by the love of Christ our Redeemer, became a precious vessel containing Christ our Victim of Calvary. Many saints and Doctors of the Church have devoutly believed that the miraculous impression of the Saviour's wounds of the Stigmata set the seal of Francis's chastity. From this time on, he entered a state of original innocence and not feeling guilty in the flesh. These divine wounds consumed all that remained of Francis's old self and produced the new created in justice and the sanctity of truth and life. As Francis himself said of it: "My body and I are in such perfect agreement that we serve Christ the Lord without any resistance."

St. Bonaventure describes Francis as coming down from Mt. Alverna carrying the image of the crucified God...engraved on his flesh by the finger of the Loving God.

Peace, Mike

