



Our Lady of the Rosary  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity  
Williamsburg, Virginia



[www.olrsfo.weebly.com](http://www.olrsfo.weebly.com)

2024

Message from our Minister ...

### Alleluia! He is Risen!

I hope everyone is enjoying this Easter Season! We are moving into May and the weather has turned warm. It's a time to look at our gardens with a critical eye. For me, I need to weed and trim and mulch to get my garden beds ready for my summer annuals. To be honest, I hate the work, but the results are an amazing massing of vibrant color that make me smile each time I turn into my driveway.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> was Earth Day. In our April meeting, the JPIC (Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation) part of our formation was to personally look at how we are living and using natural resources. We were asked to reflect on what we can do personally to help conserve the earth's resources. Each person received a butterfly note card and was asked to write what they will do for the next month as part of our Franciscan responsibility to take care of the planet we inhabit. I hope everyone was able to come up with something. For me, I've decided to turn off the water while I'm brushing my teeth. It doesn't take any effort to turn off the faucet and turn it back on later. It saves water going down the drain, and water is a resource too precious to waste.

The fraternity has also decided to help Sr. Agnes with her garden at St. Michael House. We will be planting flowers that attract bees and butterflies, pollinators that will enhance productivity of the garden. Also, Shelagh has been able to connect with a beekeeper friend, and it looks as if Sr. Agnes will have bees living in her garden. The planting is a JPIC project that will be a part of the May meeting which will be held at St. Michael House. There will be more information about the meeting coming later in the month.

The May meeting will also have a Rite of Welcoming for Theresa and Shelagh. It's been a while since we have had a formal welcoming, and doing it at St. Michael House will make it special.

Although it is very early to mention it, the fraternity has been invited to an Advent retreat at St. Clare Retreat Center on December 21, 2024. Sacred Heart Fraternity, Virginia Beach is sponsoring the retreat which will be modeled on the one we held last year. Please save the date. The council decided it will be our meeting for the month of December, so attendance will be required.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the May meeting. Pray for good weather!

Peace and all good,  
Peg

## The Trinity

Those of us who have been studying Bonaventure spent some time reading and discussing the Trinity, a very important aspect of Bonaventure's theology. Most of us have been taught about the Trinity by using different analogies for the concept of three Persons but only one God. I found this poem/prayer in *The Celtic Way of Prayer* written by Esther de Waal. Enjoy!

*Three folds of the cloth, yet only one napkin is there,  
Three joints in the finger, but still only one finger fair  
Three leaves of the shamrock, yet no more than one shamrock to wear,  
Frost, snow-flakes and ice, all in water their origin share  
Three Persons in God; to one God alone we make prayer.*



## The Pope's Monthly Intentions



### MAY: FOR THE FORMATION OF RELIGIOUS AND SEMINARIANS

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

## Birthdays

Sr. Juliana — May 20  
Cindy Holland — May 21  
Maria Fuentes-Sherman — May 25



## Anniversary of Profession

Terry Carlino	5/1/2014
Edward Gerhard	5/19/2007
Barbara Massey	5/16/1957



**Next Fraternity Meeting—May 19 at 1:15pm (social gathering from 12:30-1:15)**

## **Date and Location Change for the May Meeting!!!!**

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, St. Michael House at 12:30pm

Please note that the May meeting will be Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Two reasons for the change:

1. The original date was determined by room availability at St. Bede. We are now going to meet at St. Michael House to plant bee friendly plants as a JPIC project.
2. May 26<sup>th</sup> is the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. It was thought more people would miss the May 26 meeting because of traveling and family visits.

You will receive additional reminders and information about the new date and location closer to May 19<sup>th</sup>. **Because of the location, we won't be able to ZOOM.**

**REMINDER: WORLD BEE DAY IS MAY 20**



### It's More Than Carrying a Staff

My paternal grandfather was a shepherd. It was not a lucrative profession, and he lived from the mid-1800's until about 1930 in a region of Italy that was sinking into the worst part of its own history. He owned a few sheep and he and my grandmother lived in a two-room house on the second floor above the stable where the sheep bedded at night. In the early hours of the morning my grandfather would rise, descend the outdoor steps to unbolt the stable and lead his sheep to the nearest pasture. He did not own land; he had to pay a fee to local landowners to allow his sheep to graze in various pastures, sometimes walking for miles with his sheep to find good pastures. My grandmother carded and sold wool, made woolen clothing, and used the sheep's milk to trade for food or nourish her children. In their 2 room house they had twelve children, only six of whom lived past early childhood. My father was the twelfth of those children.

A shepherd is a person who ekes out a meager living by caring for sheep. The shepherd must ensure the safety of the sheep, and by providing the best grassy pastures for grazing and ample water for nourishment, the shepherd gives dignity to his flock. By caring for them lovingly, protecting them from harm and not mistreating them in any way, he makes certain that their quality of life gives worth to his work. If the sheep are his livelihood, he must put their well-being above everything else. He speaks to them with kindness but also with authority. His task is to make sure that they do not stray or come to harm and that in being well-cared-for they will in turn provide for him.

My father spent his childhood accompanying his father to the pastures to care for the flock. He learned a great deal from his father, but also there was much to learn from the sheep. There were times when my grandfather's grief, and his feelings of inadequacy when so many of his children were victims of their impoverished circumstances, got the better of him. Yet, he persevered day after day, regardless of weather, infirmities, or fatigue. He gave the years of his life to his sheep, to his family, and most importantly to his faith in God. This was a powerful role model for my father who came to America when he was seventeen to work and send money home to his parents. My father's devotion to his faith, family, and work ethic he learned from his father.

Subsequently, my father learned a great deal about character from spending so much time with sheep. My father was a very gentle man; he never had an unkind word to say to – or about – anyone. If someone treated him poorly, he would shrug his shoulders and assume they were having a bad day. My father made sure that our family always felt safe and loved. With a fifth-grade education from Italy, he secured the best living possible by working in a factory, but I always felt that we lacked for nothing.

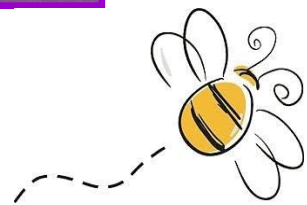
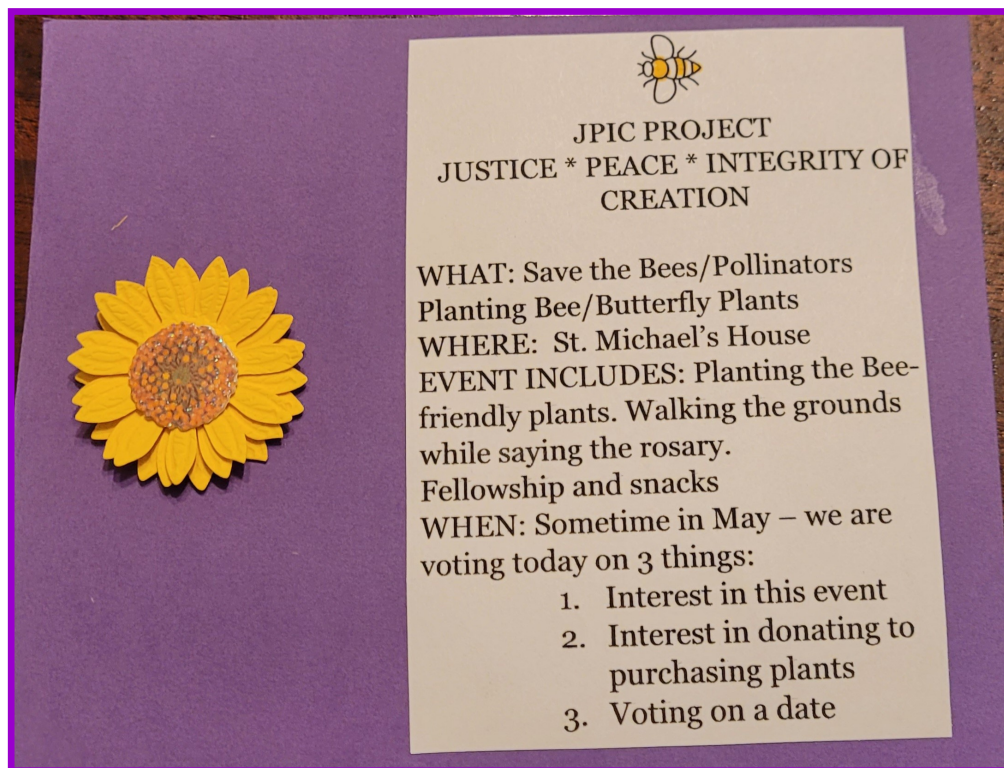
I was still a young child when my father died. One night, about two weeks after his funeral, I was in bed crying silently so that I wouldn't disturb my mother. Suddenly, I sat up when I saw my bedroom door open and the figure of my father walked inside and sat beside me. I felt his presence most vividly. He put his arm around me and told me he would always be at my side. It is a moment I will never forget. In that moment, even after his passing, he taught me about the nearness of our Good Shepherd. He doesn't leave us orphans. He cares for us and safeguards our lives. Only in remaining close to Jesus do we find the comfort, peace, and love that we so desperately seek. The next time you read Psalm 23, find that comfort, peace, and love, knowing that even if the sheep lose sight of the shepherd, the shepherd never loses sight of his sheep.

Pax e bonum.

## JPIC Project



Our Fraternity will "bee" launching a **JPIC project** in May to save bees and other pollinators. On May 19, our regular Fraternity meeting will "bee" held at Saint Michael's house on Centerville Rd. We will "bee" planting a hyssop plant and other bee-friendly plants. In the meantime, bee hives will "bee" installed on the premises. The project is meant to "bee" more than a one-time event. Please consider planting bee-friendly plants on your own property and encourage family, friends, and neighbors to do the same. Please read the attached card for more information.





# CELEBRATION

To commemorate the 7 year anniversary of our Franciscan profession, minister Peg Crews and Formation Director Donna Kendall attended a Paint Party at Wessex Hundred at the Williamsburg Winery. Other members were unable to attend. We painted a charming bunny rabbit in light of the Easter season. Some consideration is being given to doing this on a larger scale. It is a wonderful way to spend time together outside of our regular meetings and enjoy each other's company while doing something creative!



Two priests, one Jesuit and one Franciscan, suddenly died and arrived at the "Pearly Gates" and St Peter greeted them. There was music and a great crowd, all greeting the Jesuit --- there was St Isaac Jogue, St John Brébouf, followed by St Francis Xavier, etc. and finally, St Ignatius Loyola. Then came the Apostles, Angels and, as the music changed, the Blessed Virgin came out, all greeting the Jesuit. Lastly, Jesus himself welcomed the Jesuit into the heavenly kingdom. The doors closed, it got very quiet and the Franciscan stood there, a little worried and puzzled. Just then, a small door opened and a Franciscan friar appeared out of a small door in the gate and started to sweep. The Franciscan asked if he had missed something because he was a little puzzled. The old friar said, "No, go on in." The Franciscan was even more confused and said, "But my friend, the Jesuit, had everyone, the founder and even the Blessed Virgin welcome him. Why is there no fanfare? Am I not welcome?" "Oh, you are welcome, my son," said the old friar, "we have friars come in all the time, but it's been 327 years since we had a Jesuit."