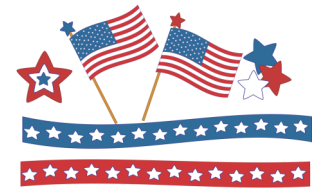




Our Lady of the Rosary  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity  
Williamsburg, Virginia



July 2024

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

## Message from our Minister ...

Brothers and Sisters of Francis and Clare,

*Happy Fourth of July!!!*

As the holiday celebrating our independence from England nears as well as the upcoming election here in the states, I started looking at Rule 15 which states:

*“Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.”*

A question each of us needs to ask of ourselves is: How are we living this rule in our daily lives? What are we doing to promote our Franciscan ideal in our world? *The Franciscan Journey* tells us that we should “collaborate as much as possible for the passage of just laws and ordinances. . . [and] take clear positions whenever human dignity is attacked by any form of oppression or indifference.”

In *Gaudium et Spes* Paragraph 27, we are told by the church that:

The varieties of crime are numerous: all offenses against life itself, such as murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, and willful suicide; all violations of the integrity of the human person, much as mutilation, physical and mental torture, undue psychological pressures; all offenses against human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, degrading working conditions where people are treated as mere tools for profit rather than free and responsible persons; all these and the like are criminal; they poison civilization; and they debase the perpetrators more than the victims and militate against the honor of the creator.

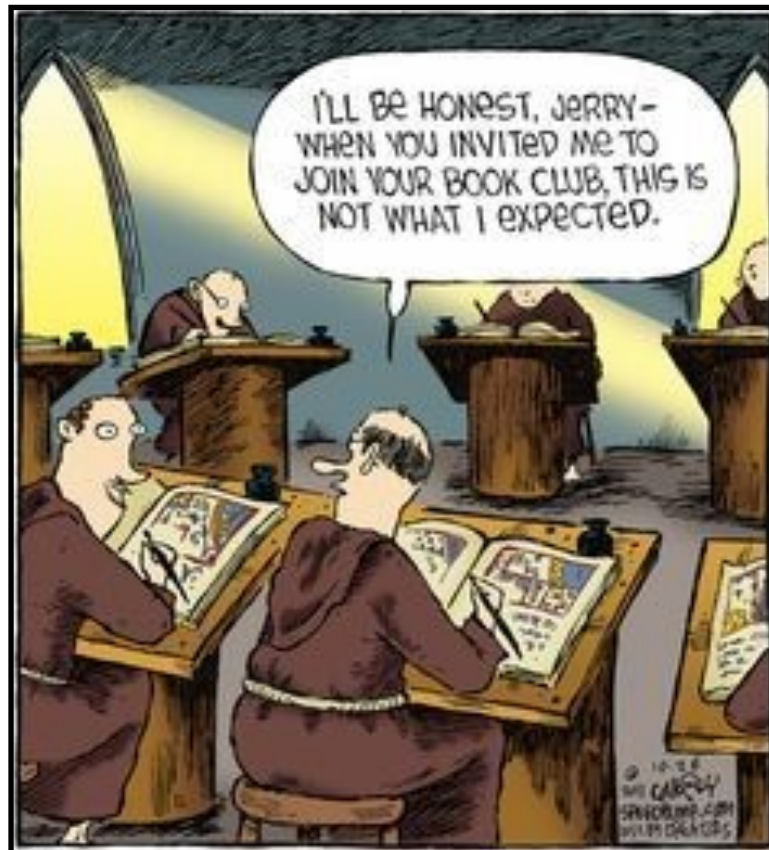
A while ago I decided to write some letters to my legislators about removing the death penalty here in Virginia. The law passed. I know that my letters probably made a very small difference in this instance, but I took a position against the death penalty and acted on it. It was the first time I engaged in the public arena, and I was glad I did.

Benedict XVI wrote in *Deus Caritas Est*: "Building a just and civil order, wherein each person receives what is his or her due, is an essential task which every generation must take up anew ...The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society ... is proper to the lay person." There are so many ways to take action. We can attend the March for Life, write letters to legislators to make your opinion known, help out at Williamsburg House of Mercy, vote your conscience, and more. All of these actions are practical ways to live the Franciscan way of promoting justice in this world. Find an issue that appeals to you and decide how you want to take action. What are you doing?

I hope you have a fantastic July!

Blessings,

Peg Crews



Congratulations! Peg Crews, Donna Kendall, Eileen Murray, Karen Coulson and Carol Murphy who have finished their book study on *Simply Bonaventure An Introduction to His Life, Thought, and Writings* by Ilia Delio, O.S.F. This was a deep study with many aha take-a-ways. If you are interested in starting a book study send an email out to the whole fraternity, bring it up at one of our meetings or submit your idea for the monthly newsletter. What a great way to learn something new with your fellow fraternity members!

## The Pope's Monthly Intentions



### **August: For Political Leaders**

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

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### **Birthdays**

July 17—Carol Murphy

### **Anniversary of Profession**

Susan James 7/27/1989



**Next Fraternity Meeting—July 21st at 1:15pm (social gathering from 12:30-1:15)**

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### **From our Formation Director: Donna Kendall**

Facing storms in life with confidence and faith in Jesus is never easy. I thought long and hard about the gospel of Mark 4:35-41. The apostles on the boat were terrified when the storm came upon them. Yet, Jesus slept peacefully. The storm raged on, the boat was filling with water and Jesus continued to sleep. I began to wonder, what if the apostles had rested in the boat alongside Jesus during the storm? What if, instead of panicking and focusing on fear, they had lain down next to Jesus until the storm passed? As I tried to imagine this alternative scenario, I felt somewhat calmer at the idea of taking this approach when unbearable events happen in life. Is this the message Jesus meant when he said, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

"Facing the storms in life with faith is transforming. And often Jesus appears to be asleep for a reason. The reason is that He wants us to trust. Too often we turn our eyes to the storm itself and allow fear and anxiety to dominate our lives. But every storm we encounter is an opportunity to trust Him on a new and deeper level. If life were always easy and consoling then we would have little reason to trust deeply. Therefore, every storm must be seen as an opportunity for tremendous grace as we place all our trust in Jesus, despite how things immediately appear. (Catholic Daily Reflections)

Perhaps, we can benefit from allowing our minds to rest with Jesus until our fears subside, trusting that Jesus has the storm under control.

### **Pray:**

*My sleeping Lord, help me to always place all my trust in You, no matter what the circumstances are in my life at every moment. Strengthen my faith, especially during those times when I face challenges and temptations. May I never doubt that You are there with me, leading me and keeping me close to Your merciful Heart. Jesus, I trust in You.*