



July 2024

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order

From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

Meeting – 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, July 14, 2024 - We are collecting children's socks.

- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – We will be discussing Reflection 5 in *To Live as Francis Lived*
- *Fellowship*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Psalms, Short Reading and Intercessions from the Psalter Week III
 - Magnificat Antiphon and Closing Prayer from the Proper of Seasons for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbHl4T20rZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Minister's Notes

This month I do not have a Council job description- we have run through those. Instead, I ask you to ponder what you professed at as a fraternity member. (See page 18 and following in your Ritual) I suggest praying about how you remember or resemble St. Francis of Assisi. Does your life reflect observing the holy gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by following in the footsteps of St. Francis? How?

1 Kings 21:27-29

And when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the evil upon his house.

When this turned up as part of a daily Mass reading in June I gnawed on it for a few days. It was good to think that humility is recognized by the Almighty. Humility implies an understanding that I am a creature and God is not. I think it also implies an understanding that I messed up; I am a sinner. That is something we strive for in the confessional, the recognition and acknowledgment of our sin.

When you mix this understanding with God being love and a definition of love being the willing of the good of the other, the result is plenty to chew on for a couple of weeks.

My meditation took the form of an imagined dialog with God. "I am a sinner. I messed up. Let the punishment fall where it belongs, on me. Do not reward me by punishing those I love. Whenever possible, my children should not pay for my mistakes.

But children do pay for our mistakes. Our priorities affect those around us. Are we living for the good of the other? Do our priorities place other before self? "Whatever I am not using belongs to the poor." I suspect this resonates with people who can put names and faces to the other. Maybe we need to broaden our vision.

Our neighbors, friends, fraternity members, parishioners... all gain an impression of us by how we live our lives. If you dropped dead tonight, how would you be remembered?

Selfish or Selfless
Giving or Receiving

Prayer Intentions

For...

- Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.
- Peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.
- Virginia Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS.
- For the repose of the soul of Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, OFS, and the consolation of her husband, Bob
- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, for

(S)he always sat in that pew.

It doesn't take an extravert to be aware of others and be willing their good.

This month, July, we will collect children's socks. Being a grandparent gives me a renewed appreciation for the escape plans of single socks in the wash, particularly the smaller size socks. Our Mother of Light can use children's socks. They will also take adult sizes if you have already bought socks.

Next month we cycle back to food. Summer is hard when a family relies on school lunches to keep children fed. Years ago (pre pandemic, when I was still working...I volunteered in a high school tutoring program after work. Our orientation as tutors tried to prepare us to work with teens who were strangers to the white-collar world. One thing struck me, we were warned that many students were used to picking a subject to fail by the end of the first quarter. They often chose the subject they were most interested in so summer days would be filled with a subject they liked. The reason their family encouraged this was they had free breakfast and lunch in summer school-food and childcare for the cost of failing a subject. One of our tasks as high school tutors was to break this cycle so they had a chance at college. Your food donation might help see a family through until Labor Day.

Pax et Bonum,

Andrea

depression.

- The sister of a friend of April, who does not want her sister to pray for her.
- April's friend, whose husband avoids Church, and his ex-wife who never went to Church.
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.
- Prisoners, sick, poor, hungry, lonely, homeless, unemployed and those with no one to pray for them.
- The health, protection and guidance of all priests and bishops including Pope Francis.
- The union of all Christians.
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

Professions

No professions in July

Birthdays of the Month

July

Ann Wester (9th)
Angela Gill (12th)
Patrick Birello (12th)
Joseph Kennedy (16th)

August

Elizabeth Shaeffer (15th)
Andrea Bender (21st)

Necrology

Hilma M. Boyd – July 14, 1989
Dorothy Furey – July 3, 2014

Secretary's Note

This is my last appeal for the Chapter of Mats. The Registration info is on Page 4. You can also contact Sita or myself if you have any questions. The Fraternity is offering to subsidize the event over the deposit amount. Please contact Andrea if you want the subsidy.

The 2024 Mats Planning Committee would like all Seculars in the Region to pray for the success of this chapter and our prayer for the Chapter of Mats is on page 3.

I would like to call to mind that July 12th is the feast of Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, first spouses canonized together and the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The Carmelites also claim them because of St. Thérèse and three of her sisters entered the Carmel of Lisieux as well.

Also, on July 15th, we celebrate the Seraphic Doctor, St. Bonaventure. On page 8 is an excerpt of a homily by this saint that dovetails quite well with Andrea's message. Also, I stumbled upon this excerpt.

Peace and Good, Randy

PRAYER FOR THE ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF MATS

September 6-8, 2024

Most high and glorious God,
we ask for your blessing
upon our upcoming Chapter of Mats.

We thank you for our call to live the Gospel
following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis.

We thank you for those who have gone before us,
who preserved our charism throughout the centuries.

We thank you for our current leaders,
who serve us and help us to grow in our understanding
of our vocation.

And we thank you for future leaders,
the shepherds that are to come.

We ask you to send down your Holy Spirit upon us as
we journey toward our 2024 Chapter of Mats.

Prepare all of us, Lord, as we ask
for fraternal Love to love as you love;
Humility to listen to one another;
Wisdom to see the future you would have us build;
Courage to follow your direction; and
Grace to spread seeds of goodness and joy throughout
our time at Chapter and beyond.

Lord, as we anticipate coming together to celebrate
Where we were, where we are, and where we are called
to be as Secular Franciscans,
let us remember to see and treat all
“...as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.”¹

And so we pray,
Holy God, draw us together as a community,
take charge of our Chapter of Mats,
and lead us into the future.

Father, we adore you and give you all
praise, honor, and glory,
Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
In union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

Registration is NOW OPEN for our September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats to be held at the Beautiful Claggett Center in Adamstown, Maryland. Under the theme of The Next 800 Years, we will explore where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going.

How are we as Secular Franciscans poised to bring Christ to our world?
What unique gifts do we have to offer?

Deadlines: *Deposit:* \$150.00 *Due with registration*
Full remaining balance Based on housing selection: *Due by August 1, 2024*

Note: Full refunds are available until July 15, feast of St. Bonaventure. After July 15, all reservations are final and non-refundable.

Housing Options: Remaining options will include double hotel-like rooms with private baths in the Christiane Inn, in close proximity to the dining room and meeting rooms. Accommodations are also available in cottages, downhill from the dining and meeting space. Cottages have two twin beds per room and shared baths down the hall. The Commuter Option is now available. The cost is \$150 and includes all meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days. Please consider requesting financial assistance for overnight housing if you are choosing this option due to cost.

Event Costs: All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and registration fees are included in the cost of the rooms and the commuter fee. The lodging cost is based on the type of housing selected from the options below. There are no additional fees.

Lodging Options:

- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for 2 persons (\$275 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for three persons (\$230 per person) – must designate roommates
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$210 per person) – must designate roommates
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$235 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned (no single rooms in cottages)
- Commuter fee – meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days (\$150 per person)

Payment Options:

Payment can be made via check or credit card (subject to 3.5% fee).

• Checks should be made payable to St. Margaret of Cortona Region, and mailed to Randy Bender, 929 North Danville St. Arlington, VA 22201-1921.

• If you wish to pay by credit card (with additional 3.5% fee), mark that box on the registration form and you will receive an invoice and payment instructions from Randy Bender.

To enhance the participation of all our brothers and sisters, disability and dietary accommodations, and language interpretation/translation will be available throughout the Chapter of Mats. Please indicate your requests on the registration form.

To Register, Click here for fillable form: <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Registration-Foirm-Revised.pdf>

If you have any questions or need help with registering, email Randy Bender at benderclan@verizon.net and to Janice Benton at jbentonsfo@gmail.com.

For More Info: https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-Chapter-of-Mats-Flyer_Rev.-06.03.2024.pdf.pdf

Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

July 1

St. Junipero Serra, Priest, Alcantarine Friars Minor, missionary (November 24, 1713-August 28, 1784)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/the-franciscan-saints-junipero-serra/>

Blesseds Marcello Maruzzo, Friar OFM (23 July 1929 – 1 July 1981) and Luis Navarro, OFS (21 June 1950 – 1 July 1981) Martyrs of Guatemala

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcello_Maruzzo_and_Luis_Navarro

July 3

Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta, Foundress, Franciscan Missionaries of the Mother of the Divine Shepherd (January 13, 1827-July 3, 1886)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrina_Mogas_Fontcuberta

July 4

St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Third Order Secular (1271-1336)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Elizabeth-of-Portugal>

St. John Zhang Huan, Martyr, Franciscan seminarian (August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-huan-john-st>

Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, Priest, OFM of the Alcantarines (September 9, 1802-July 4, 1854)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domenico_Mazzarella

St. Peter Zhang Banniu, Martyr, Secular Franciscan (1849-August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-banniu-peter-st>

July 8

Ss. Gregory Grassi, Hermine Grivot and Companions, First Order and Third Order Religious and Secular Franciscans, Martyrs of China (d. 1900)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0708-1042.htm>

July 9

Bl. Marija of Jesus Crucified Petković, Foundress, Third Order Regular (December 10, 1892-July 9, 1966)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20030606_petkovic_en.html

11 Martyrs of Damascus, Eight Franciscan Friars and Three Maronite Laymen (July 9, 1860)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/damascus-martyrs>

St. Nicholas Pieck and Companions: Anthony Hornaer, Anthony of Weert, Cornelius, Francis, Godfrey, Jerome, Nicasius, Peter, Theodoric, Willehad, Martyrs of Holland (d. 1572)

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11065b.htm>

St. Veronica Giuliani, Capuchin Poor Clare (December 27, 1660-July 9, 1727)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-veronica-giuliani.html>

July 12

St. John Jones and John Wall, First Order, Martyrs of England (c. 1530-1598; 1620-1679)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-john-jones-and-john-wall>

Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, First Spouses Canonized Together

<http://saintsresource.com/louis-and-zelig-martin/>

July 13

Bl. Angeline of Marsciano, Foundress, Third Order Regular (1357-July 14, 1435)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angeline_of_Marsciano

July 14

St. Francisco Solano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Missionary (March 10, 1549-July 14, 1610)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Solanus

July 15

Bl. Bernard of Baden, Third Order Secular (c. 1428-July 15, 1458)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-bernard-of-baden.html>

- July 15
St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, Cardinal, Minister General Order Friars Minor, Doctor of the Church (1221-July 15, 1274)
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Bonaventure>
- July 16
Canonization of St. Francis on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX
<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/bull-of-canonization-of-st-francis-of-assisi-mira-circa-nos-7860>
St. Marie-Madeleine Postel, Foundress, Third Order Regular (November 28, 1756-July 16, 1846)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/postel-marie-madeleine-st>
- July 18
St. Camillus de Lellis, Capuchin Novitiate before founding Ministers to the Sick (May 25, 1550-July 14, 1614)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-camillus-de-lellis/>
- July 19
Bl. Peter of Cresci, Priest, Third Order Secular (d. July 19, 1323)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-cresci.html>
- July 19
Bl. Herman Stepien, First Order Conventual, Polish Martyr (October 21, 1910-July 19, 1943)
<https://carmelitesph.org/memorial-of-blessed-karol-herman-stepien/>
- July 21
St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Doctor of the Church (July 22, 1559-July 22, 1619)
<http://catholicism.org/saint-lawrence-of-brindisi-apostolic-doctor.html>
- July 23
St. Kunigunde of Poland, Abbess, Poor Clare Sisters (March 5, 1224-July 24, 1292)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunigunde_of_Poland
- July 24
Bl. Louise of Savoy, Poor Clare Nun (December 28, 1461-July 25, 1503)
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0724-23.htm>
- July 25
Bl. Antonio Lucci, Bishop, OFM Conventual (August 2, 1682-July 25, 1752)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Lucci
- July 26
St. Bartolomea Capitanio, Third Order Secular before founding another order (January 13, 1807-July 26, 1833)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartolomea_Capitanio
- July 27
Bl. Archangelo of Calatafimi, Religious, Friars Minor of the Observance (d. 1460)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/archangelo-calatafimi-bl>
Bl. Maria Maddalena Martinengo, Capuchin Poor Clare nun (October 5, 1687-July 27, 1737)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-magdalene-martinengo.html>
Bl. Nevolo of Faenza, Third Order Secular (13th Cent.-July 27, 1280)
<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-nevolo-of-faenza/>
- July 28
St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception, Franciscan Clarist Congregation (August 19, 1910-July 28, 1946)
http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/2008/ns_lit_doc_20081012_alfonsa_en.html
Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska, Capuchin Poor Clares, Martyr (d. 1941)
<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/maria-teresa-kowalska/>

July 30

Bl. Bertrand de la Tour, Cardinal, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1262-1332)

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0730-23.htm>

Bl. Solanus Casey, Priest, OFM Capuchin (November 25, 1870-July 31, 1957)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solanus_Casey

August 2

Feast of St. Mary of the Angels of the Portiuncula - Plenary indulgence available

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12286a.htm>

August 4

Bl. Frédéric Janssoone, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 19, 1838-August 4, 1916)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frédéric_Janssoone

St. John Vianney, Priest, Third Order Secular (May 8, 1786-August 4, 1859)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08326c.htm>

August 6

Bl. Maria Francesca Rubatto, Founder, Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto
(February 14, 1844-August 6, 1904)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Maria_Rubatto

August 7

Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian, Priests, OFM Capuchin, Martyrs (d. 1638)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-agathangel-and-cassian.html>

August 8

Holy Father St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers and Cordbearer
(August 8, 1170-August 6, 1221)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05106a.htm>

August 9

Bl. John of La Verna, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (1259-August 9, 1322)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-la-verna.html>

St Francis of Assisi-Consumed by the Gospel

At the heart of the Christian faith is the Incarnation. I don't know what I would do without Jesus; abstract talk about God always left me empty and longing for more. I need God made flesh, human like us, walking our streets, even in our shoes, teaching us the way of God. I also need people to teach me again the reality of the Incarnation in their own lives and history. We all need that.

Francis is perhaps our greatest teacher. He has been called both "the first Christian" and "the last Christian." My struggle is just that; his life presents the gospel in such stark contrast to the world, to the church, and to my own life. Sometimes his example convinces me that it is indeed possible, with God's abundant grace, to live the gospel life. Other times his star shines so bright that it only exposes my own darkness. Francis converts me over and over to Jesus, but he also makes me sometimes wonder if I really am or want to be a Christian. He both points to the great possibility and shows me how much further I have to go to see what he saw.

...

I must warn you that if you begin to follow after him as he dances through the world, he will certainly turn your life upside down, as he has mine. It is a journey that I still find myself very much in the middle of.

I don't know where the journey will end, either for me or for you. But I do know that I want to commend him to you. Once you have looked into his eyes, you will never see the same way again.

Jim Wallis, Joyce Hollyday, *Cloud of Witnesses: Revised Edition*, Maryknoll, NY; Orbis Books, 1991, pp. 7-8.

Evening Sermon on Saint Francis

Preached at Paris, October 4, 1255

...He can always say to us; *Learn from me for I am humble of heart*, Learn, that is, to have true, not counterfeit, humility as hypocrites cunningly humble themselves. Of these, Sirach says: *There is one who humbles himself wickedly and inwardly he is full of deceit*, (Sir 19:23) and St. Paul writes to the Colossians: *Let no man disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind*. (Col 2:18) He is not encouraging us to that kind of humility, but to the humility of heart on which Saint Bernard writes: The truly humble man wants to be considered despicable rather than proclaimed a humble man.”ⁱ

Saint Francis possessed this humility supremely. He loved and sought it, from the origin of his religious life until his death. For this he left the world, ordered that he be dragged naked through a city, ministered to lepers, told his own sins while preaching and even commanded others to pour scorn on him. We ought to learn this virtue especially from him.

That we may desire it let us look at the fruits which make it so attractive, the manner in which it is acquired and the means by which it is maintained.

The fruits of humility are manifold. First, it calms the anger of God, while moving him to suspend judgment due to guilt. This is well exemplified in the Book of

Kings where the Lord says to Elijah: *Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days*. (1 Kg 21:29) What extraordinary power humility has, that it can contain the hand of God! The psalmist tells us: *The Lord is the keeper of little ones: I was humbled and he delivered me*, (Ps 116A:6) and Saint James says: *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble*. He protects and guards them, as the Psalmist says: *The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a contrite and humbled heart, O God, you will not despise*, (Ps 51:19)

The second fruit of humility is that it finds grace. Just as anyone looking for water must dig down into the earth, so anyone longing to find *living water* (Jn 4:10) has to dig a well of humility inside himself. As Sirach says: *The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself and you will find grace before God*. (Sir 3:20 Jas 4:6) ...

To be continued next Month

Regis J Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap., J. A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv., William J. Short, O.F.M., editors, *The Founder: Volume II of Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, New York: New City Press, 2000, pp.519-520.

ⁱ Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermon 16:10, *On the Song of Songs I*, The Works of Bernard of Clairvaux, vol II translated by Lilian Walsh and introduced by M. Corneille Halfants (Spencer, MA: Cistercian Publications, 1971), 121.



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THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

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- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Psalms, Short Reading and Intercessions from the Psalter Week III
 - Magnificat Antiphon and Closing Prayer from the Proper of Seasons for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info

Zoom Link:

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Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

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1 Kings 21:27-29

And when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the evil upon his house.

When this turned up as part of a daily Mass reading in June I gnawed on it for a few days. It was good to think that humility is recognized by the Almighty. Humility implies an understanding that I am a creature and God is not. I think it also implies an understanding that I messed up; I am a sinner. That is something we strive for in the confessional, the recognition and acknowledgment of our sin.

When you mix this understanding with God being love and a definition of love being the willing of the good of the other, the result is plenty to chew on for a couple of weeks.

My meditation took the form of an imagined dialog with God. "I am a sinner. I messed up. Let the punishment fall where it belongs, on me. Do not reward me by punishing those I love. Whenever possible, my children should not pay for my mistakes.

But children do pay for our mistakes. Our priorities affect those around us. Are we living for the good of the other? Do our priorities place other before self? "Whatever I am not using belongs to the poor." I suspect this resonates with people who can put names and faces to the other. Maybe we need to broaden our vision.

Our neighbors, friends, fraternity members, parishioners... all gain an impression of us by how we live our lives. If you dropped dead tonight, how would you be remembered?

Selfish or Selfless
Giving or Receiving

Prayer Intentions

For...

- Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.
- Peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.
- Virginia Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS.
- For the repose of the soul of Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, OFS, and the consolation of her husband, Bob
- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, for

(S)he always sat in that pew.

It doesn't take an extravert to be aware of others and be willing their good.

This month, July, we will collect children's socks. Being a grandparent gives me a renewed appreciation for the escape plans of single socks in the wash, particularly the smaller size socks. Our Mother of Light can use children's socks. They will also take adult sizes if you have already bought socks.

Next month we cycle back to food. Summer is hard when a family relies on school lunches to keep children fed. Years ago (pre pandemic, when I was still working...I volunteered in a high school tutoring program after work. Our orientation as tutors tried to prepare us to work with teens who were strangers to the white-collar world. One thing struck me, we were warned that many students were used to picking a subject to fail by the end of the first quarter. They often chose the subject they were most interested in so summer days would be filled with a subject they liked. The reason their family encouraged this was they had free breakfast and lunch in summer school-food and childcare for the cost of failing a subject. One of our tasks as high school tutors was to break this cycle so they had a chance at college. Your food donation might help see a family through until Labor Day.

Pax et Bonum,

Andrea

depression.

- The sister of a friend of April, who does not want her sister to pray for her.
- April's friend, whose husband avoids Church, and his ex-wife who never went to Church.
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.
- Prisoners, sick, poor, hungry, lonely, homeless, unemployed and those with no one to pray for them.
- The health, protection and guidance of all priests and bishops including Pope Francis.
- The union of all Christians.
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

Professions

No professions in July

Birthdays of the Month

July

Ann Wester (9th)
Angela Gill (12th)
Patrick Birello (12th)
Joseph Kennedy (16th)

August

Elizabeth Shaeffer (15th)
Andrea Bender (21st)

Necrology

Hilma M. Boyd – July 14, 1989
Dorothy Furey – July 3, 2014

Secretary's Note

This is my last appeal for the Chapter of Mats. The Registration info is on Page 4. You can also contact Sita or myself if you have any questions. The Fraternity is offering to subsidize the event over the deposit amount. Please contact Andrea if you want the subsidy.

The 2024 Mats Planning Committee would like all Seculars in the Region to pray for the success of this chapter and our prayer for the Chapter of Mats is on page 3.

I would like to call to mind that July 12th is the feast of Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, first spouses canonized together and the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The Carmelites also claim them because of St. Thérèse and three of her sisters entered the Carmel of Lisieux as well.

Also, on July 15th, we celebrate the Seraphic Doctor, St. Bonaventure. On page 8 is an excerpt of a homily by this saint that dovetails quite well with Andrea's message. Also, I stumbled upon this excerpt.

Peace and Good, Randy

PRAYER FOR THE ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF MATS

September 6-8, 2024

Most high and glorious God,
we ask for your blessing
upon our upcoming Chapter of Mats.

We thank you for our call to live the Gospel
following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis.

We thank you for those who have gone before us,
who preserved our charism throughout the centuries.

We thank you for our current leaders,
who serve us and help us to grow in our understanding
of our vocation.

And we thank you for future leaders,
the shepherds that are to come.

We ask you to send down your Holy Spirit upon us as
we journey toward our 2024 Chapter of Mats.

Prepare all of us, Lord, as we ask
for fraternal Love to love as you love;
Humility to listen to one another;
Wisdom to see the future you would have us build;
Courage to follow your direction; and
Grace to spread seeds of goodness and joy throughout
our time at Chapter and beyond.

Lord, as we anticipate coming together to celebrate
Where we were, where we are, and where we are called
to be as Secular Franciscans,
let us remember to see and treat all
“...as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.”¹

And so we pray,
Holy God, draw us together as a community,
take charge of our Chapter of Mats,
and lead us into the future.

Father, we adore you and give you all
praise, honor, and glory,
Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
In union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

Registration is NOW OPEN for our September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats to be held at the Beautiful Claggett Center in Adamstown, Maryland. Under the theme of The Next 800 Years, we will explore where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going.

How are we as Secular Franciscans poised to bring Christ to our world?
What unique gifts do we have to offer?

Deadlines: *Deposit:* \$150.00 *Due with registration*
Full remaining balance Based on housing selection: *Due by August 1, 2024*

Note: Full refunds are available until July 15, feast of St. Bonaventure. After July 15, all reservations are final and non-refundable.

Housing Options: Remaining options will include double hotel-like rooms with private baths in the Christiane Inn, in close proximity to the dining room and meeting rooms. Accommodations are also available in cottages, downhill from the dining and meeting space. Cottages have two twin beds per room and shared baths down the hall. The Commuter Option is now available. The cost is \$150 and includes all meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days. Please consider requesting financial assistance for overnight housing if you are choosing this option due to cost.

Event Costs: All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and registration fees are included in the cost of the rooms and the commuter fee. The lodging cost is based on the type of housing selected from the options below. There are no additional fees.

Lodging Options:

- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for 2 persons (\$275 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for three persons (\$230 per person) – must designate roommates
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$210 per person) – must designate roommates
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$235 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned (no single rooms in cottages)
- Commuter fee – meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days (\$150 per person)

Payment Options:

Payment can be made via check or credit card (subject to 3.5% fee).

• Checks should be made payable to St. Margaret of Cortona Region, and mailed to Randy Bender, 929 North Danville St. Arlington, VA 22201-1921.

• If you wish to pay by credit card (with additional 3.5% fee), mark that box on the registration form and you will receive an invoice and payment instructions from Randy Bender.

To enhance the participation of all our brothers and sisters, disability and dietary accommodations, and language interpretation/translation will be available throughout the Chapter of Mats. Please indicate your requests on the registration form.

To Register, Click here for fillable form: <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Registration-Foirm-Revised.pdf>

If you have any questions or need help with registering, email Randy Bender at benderclan@verizon.net and to Janice Benton at jbentonsfo@gmail.com.

For More Info: https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-Chapter-of-Mats-Flyer_Rev.-06.03.2024.pdf.pdf

Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

July 1

St. Junipero Serra, Priest, Alcantarine Friars Minor, missionary (November 24, 1713-August 28, 1784)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/the-franciscan-saints-junipero-serra/>

Blesseds Marcello Maruzzo, Friar OFM (23 July 1929 – 1 July 1981) and Luis Navarro, OFS (21 June 1950 – 1 July 1981) Martyrs of Guatemala

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcello_Maruzzo_and_Luis_Navarro

July 3

Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta, Foundress, Franciscan Missionaries of the Mother of the Divine Shepherd (January 13, 1827-July 3, 1886)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrina_Mogas_Fontcuberta

July 4

St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Third Order Secular (1271-1336)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Elizabeth-of-Portugal>

St. John Zhang Huan, Martyr, Franciscan seminarian (August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-huan-john-st>

Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, Priest, OFM of the Alcantarines (September 9, 1802-July 4, 1854)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domenico_Mazzarella

St. Peter Zhang Banniu, Martyr, Secular Franciscan (1849-August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-banniu-peter-st>

July 8

Ss. Gregory Grassi, Hermine Grivot and Companions, First Order and Third Order Religious and Secular Franciscans, Martyrs of China (d. 1900)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0708-1042.htm>

July 9

Bl. Marija of Jesus Crucified Petković, Foundress, Third Order Regular (December 10, 1892-July 9, 1966)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20030606_petkovic_en.html

11 Martyrs of Damascus, Eight Franciscan Friars and Three Maronite Laymen (July 9, 1860)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/damascus-martyrs>

St. Nicholas Pieck and Companions: Anthony Hornaer, Anthony of Weert, Cornelius, Francis, Godfrey, Jerome, Nicasius, Peter, Theodoric, Willehad, Martyrs of Holland (d. 1572)

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11065b.htm>

St. Veronica Giuliani, Capuchin Poor Clare (December 27, 1660-July 9, 1727)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-veronica-giuliani.html>

July 12

St. John Jones and John Wall, First Order, Martyrs of England (c. 1530-1598; 1620-1679)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-john-jones-and-john-wall>

Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, First Spouses Canonized Together

<http://saintsresource.com/louis-and-zelig-martin/>

July 13

Bl. Angeline of Marsciano, Foundress, Third Order Regular (1357-July 14, 1435)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angeline_of_Marsciano

July 14

St. Francisco Solano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Missionary (March 10, 1549-July 14, 1610)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Solanus

July 15

Bl. Bernard of Baden, Third Order Secular (c. 1428-July 15, 1458)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-bernard-of-baden.html>

- July 15
St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, Cardinal, Minister General Order Friars Minor, Doctor of the Church (1221-July 15, 1274)
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Bonaventure>
- July 16
Canonization of St. Francis on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX
<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/bull-of-canonization-of-st-francis-of-assisi-mira-circa-nos-7860>
St. Marie-Madeleine Postel, Foundress, Third Order Regular (November 28, 1756-July 16, 1846)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/postel-marie-madeleine-st>
- July 18
St. Camillus de Lellis, Capuchin Novitiate before founding Ministers to the Sick (May 25, 1550-July 14, 1614)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-camillus-de-lellis/>
- July 19
Bl. Peter of Cresci, Priest, Third Order Secular (d. July 19, 1323)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-cresci.html>
- July 19
Bl. Herman Stepien, First Order Conventual, Polish Martyr (October 21, 1910-July 19, 1943)
<https://carmelitesph.org/memorial-of-blessed-karol-herman-stepien/>
- July 21
St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Doctor of the Church (July 22, 1559-July 22, 1619)
<http://catholicism.org/saint-lawrence-of-brindisi-apostolic-doctor.html>
- July 23
St. Kunigunde of Poland, Abbess, Poor Clare Sisters (March 5, 1224-July 24, 1292)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunigunde_of_Poland
- July 24
Bl. Louise of Savoy, Poor Clare Nun (December 28, 1461-July 25, 1503)
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0724-23.htm>
- July 25
Bl. Antonio Lucci, Bishop, OFM Conventual (August 2, 1682-July 25, 1752)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Lucci
- July 26
St. Bartolomea Capitanio, Third Order Secular before founding another order (January 13, 1807-July 26, 1833)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartolomea_Capitanio
- July 27
Bl. Archangelo of Calatafimi, Religious, Friars Minor of the Observance (d. 1460)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/archangelo-calatafimi-bl>
Bl. Maria Maddalena Martinengo, Capuchin Poor Clare nun (October 5, 1687-July 27, 1737)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-magdalene-martinengo.html>
Bl. Nevolo of Faenza, Third Order Secular (13th Cent.-July 27, 1280)
<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-nevolo-of-faenza/>
- July 28
St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception, Franciscan Clarist Congregation (August 19, 1910-July 28, 1946)
http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/2008/ns_lit_doc_20081012_alfonsa_en.html
Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska, Capuchin Poor Clares, Martyr (d. 1941)
<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/maria-teresa-kowalska/>

July 30

Bl. Bertrand de la Tour, Cardinal, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1262-1332)

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0730-23.htm>

Bl. Solanus Casey, Priest, OFM Capuchin (November 25, 1870-July 31, 1957)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solanus_Casey

August 2

Feast of St. Mary of the Angels of the Portiuncula - Plenary indulgence available

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12286a.htm>

August 4

Bl. Frédéric Janssoone, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 19, 1838-August 4, 1916)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frédéric_Janssoone

St. John Vianney, Priest, Third Order Secular (May 8, 1786-August 4, 1859)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08326c.htm>

August 6

Bl. Maria Francesca Rubatto, Founder, Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto
(February 14, 1844-August 6, 1904)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Maria_Rubatto

August 7

Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian, Priests, OFM Capuchin, Martyrs (d. 1638)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-agathangel-and-cassian.html>

August 8

Holy Father St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers and Cordbearer
(August 8, 1170-August 6, 1221)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05106a.htm>

August 9

Bl. John of La Verna, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (1259-August 9, 1322)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-la-verna.html>

St Francis of Assisi-Consumed by the Gospel

At the heart of the Christian faith is the Incarnation. I don't know what I would do without Jesus; abstract talk about God always left me empty and longing for more. I need God made flesh, human like us, walking our streets, even in our shoes, teaching us the way of God. I also need people to teach me again the reality of the Incarnation in their own lives and history. We all need that.

Francis is perhaps our greatest teacher. He has been called both "the first Christian" and "the last Christian." My struggle is just that; his life presents the gospel in such stark contrast to the world, to the church, and to my own life. Sometimes his example convinces me that it is indeed possible, with God's abundant grace, to live the gospel life. Other times his star shines so bright that it only exposes my own darkness. Francis converts me over and over to Jesus, but he also makes me sometimes wonder if I really am or want to be a Christian. He both points to the great possibility and shows me how much further I have to go to see what he saw.

...

I must warn you that if you begin to follow after him as he dances through the world, he will certainly turn your life upside down, as he has mine. It is a journey that I still find myself very much in the middle of.

I don't know where the journey will end, either for me or for you. But I do know that I want to commend him to you. Once you have looked into his eyes, you will never see the same way again.

Jim Wallis, Joyce Hollyday, *Cloud of Witnesses: Revised Edition*, Maryknoll, NY; Orbis Books, 1991, pp. 7-8.

Evening Sermon on Saint Francis

Preached at Paris, October 4, 1255

...He can always say to us; *Learn from me for I am humble of heart*, Learn, that is, to have true, not counterfeit, humility as hypocrites cunningly humble themselves. Of these, Sirach says: *There is one who humbles himself wickedly and inwardly he is full of deceit*, (Sir 19:23) and St. Paul writes to the Colossians: *Let no man disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind*. (Col 2:18) He is not encouraging us to that kind of humility, but to the humility of heart on which Saint Bernard writes: The truly humble man wants to be considered despicable rather than proclaimed a humble man.”ⁱ

Saint Francis possessed this humility supremely. He loved and sought it, from the origin of his religious life until his death. For this he left the world, ordered that he be dragged naked through a city, ministered to lepers, told his own sins while preaching and even commanded others to pour scorn on him. We ought to learn this virtue especially from him.

That we may desire it let us look at the fruits which make it so attractive, the manner in which it is acquired and the means by which it is maintained.

The fruits of humility are manifold. First, it calms the anger of God, while moving him to suspend judgment due to guilt. This is well exemplified in the Book of

Kings where the Lord says to Elijah: *Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days*. (1 Kg 21:29) What extraordinary power humility has, that it can contain the hand of God! The psalmist tells us: *The Lord is the keeper of little ones: I was humbled and he delivered me*, (Ps 116A:6) and Saint James says: *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble*. He protects and guards them, as the Psalmist says: *The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a contrite and humbled heart, O God, you will not despise*, (Ps 51:19)

The second fruit of humility is that it finds grace. Just as anyone looking for water must dig down into the earth, so anyone longing to find *living water* (Jn 4:10) has to dig a well of humility inside himself. As Sirach says: *The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself and you will find grace before God*. (Sir 3:20 Jas 4:6) ...

To be continued next Month

Regis J Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap., J. A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv., William J. Short, O.F.M., editors, *The Founder: Volume II of Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, New York: New City Press, 2000, pp.519-520.

ⁱ Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermon 16:10, *On the Song of Songs I*, The Works of Bernard of Clairvaux, vol II translated by Lilian Walsh and introduced by M. Corneille Halfants (Spencer, MA: Cistercian Publications, 1971), 121.



July 2024

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order

From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

Meeting – 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, July 14, 2024 - We are collecting children's socks.

- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – We will be discussing Reflection 5 in *To Live as Francis Lived*
- *Fellowship*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Psalms, Short Reading and Intercessions from the Psalter Week III
 - Magnificat Antiphon and Closing Prayer from the Proper of Seasons for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbll4T20rZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Minister's Notes

This month I do not have a Council job description- we have run through those. Instead, I ask you to ponder what you professed at as a fraternity member. (See page 18 and following in your Ritual) I suggest praying about how you remember or resemble St. Francis of Assisi. Does your life reflect observing the holy gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by following in the footsteps of St. Francis? How?

1 Kings 21:27-29

And when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the evil upon his house."

When this turned up as part of a daily Mass reading in June I gnawed on it for a few days. It was good to think that humility is recognized by the Almighty. Humility implies an understanding that I am a creature and God is not. I think it also implies an understanding that I messed up; I am a sinner. That is something we strive for in the confessional, the recognition and acknowledgment of our sin.

When you mix this understanding with God being love and a definition of love being the willing of the good of the other, the result is plenty to chew on for a couple of weeks.

My meditation took the form of an imagined dialog with God. "I am a sinner. I messed up. Let the punishment fall where it belongs, on me. Do not reward me by punishing those I love. Whenever possible, my children should not pay for my mistakes.

But children do pay for our mistakes. Our priorities affect those around us. Are we living for the good of the other? Do our priorities place other before self? "Whatever I am not using belongs to the poor." I suspect this resonates with people who can put names and faces to the other. Maybe we need to broaden our vision.

Our neighbors, friends, fraternity members, parishioners... all gain an impression of us by how we live our lives. If you dropped dead tonight, how would you be remembered?

Selfish or Selfless
Giving or Receiving

Prayer Intentions

For...

- Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.
- Peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.
- Virginia Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS.
- For the repose of the soul of Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, OFS, and the consolation of her husband, Bob
- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, for

(S)he always sat in that pew.

It doesn't take an extravert to be aware of others and be willing their good.

This month, July, we will collect children's socks. Being a grandparent gives me a renewed appreciation for the escape plans of single socks in the wash, particularly the smaller size socks. Our Mother of Light can use children's socks. They will also take adult sizes if you have already bought socks.

Next month we cycle back to food. Summer is hard when a family relies on school lunches to keep children fed. Years ago (pre pandemic, when I was still working...I volunteered in a high school tutoring program after work. Our orientation as tutors tried to prepare us to work with teens who were strangers to the white-collar world. One thing struck me, we were warned that many students were used to picking a subject to fail by the end of the first quarter. They often chose the subject they were most interested in so summer days would be filled with a subject they liked. The reason their family encouraged this was they had free breakfast and lunch in summer school-food and childcare for the cost of failing a subject. One of our tasks as high school tutors was to break this cycle so they had a chance at college. Your food donation might help see a family through until Labor Day.

Pax et Bonum,

Andrea

depression.

- The sister of a friend of April, who does not want her sister to pray for her.
- April's friend, whose husband avoids Church, and his ex-wife who never went to Church.
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.
- Prisoners, sick, poor, hungry, lonely, homeless, unemployed and those with no one to pray for them.
- The health, protection and guidance of all priests and bishops including Pope Francis.
- The union of all Christians.
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

Professions

No professions in July

Birthdays of the Month

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Angela Gill (12th)
Patrick Birello (12th)
Joseph Kennedy (16th)

August

Elizabeth Shaeffer (15th)
Andrea Bender (21st)

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Hilma M. Boyd – July 14, 1989
Dorothy Furey – July 3, 2014

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Peace and Good, Randy

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September 6-8, 2024

Most high and glorious God,
we ask for your blessing
upon our upcoming Chapter of Mats.

We thank you for our call to live the Gospel following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis.

We thank you for those who have gone before us, who preserved our charism throughout the centuries.

We thank you for our current leaders, who serve us and help us to grow in our understanding of our vocation.

And we thank you for future leaders, the shepherds that are to come.

We ask you to send down your Holy Spirit upon us as we journey toward our 2024 Chapter of Mats.

Prepare all of us, Lord, as we ask for fraternal Love to love as you love;
Humility to listen to one another;
Wisdom to see the future you would have us build;
Courage to follow your direction; and
Grace to spread seeds of goodness and joy throughout our time at Chapter and beyond.

Lord, as we anticipate coming together to celebrate Where we were, where we are, and where we are called to be as Secular Franciscans, let us remember to see and treat all "...as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ."¹

And so we pray,
Holy God, draw us together as a community,
take charge of our Chapter of Mats,
and lead us into the future.

Father, we adore you and give you all
praise, honor, and glory,
Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
In union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

Registration is NOW OPEN for our September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats to be held at the Beautiful Claggett Center in Adamstown, Maryland. Under the theme of The Next 800 Years, we will explore where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going.

How are we as Secular Franciscans poised to bring Christ to our world?
What unique gifts do we have to offer?

Deadlines: *Deposit:* \$150.00 *Due with registration*
Full remaining balance Based on housing selection: *Due by August 1, 2024*

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Housing Options: Remaining options will include double hotel-like rooms with private baths in the Christiane Inn, in close proximity to the dining room and meeting rooms. Accommodations are also available in cottages, downhill from the dining and meeting space. Cottages have two twin beds per room and shared baths down the hall. The Commuter Option is now available. The cost is \$150 and includes all meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days. Please consider requesting financial assistance for overnight housing if you are choosing this option due to cost.

Event Costs: All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and registration fees are included in the cost of the rooms and the commuter fee. The lodging cost is based on the type of housing selected from the options below. There are no additional fees.

Lodging Options:

- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for 2 persons (\$275 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for three persons (\$230 per person) – must designate roommates
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$210 per person) – must designate roommates
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$235 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned (no single rooms in cottages)
- Commuter fee – meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days (\$150 per person)

Payment Options:

Payment can be made via check or credit card (subject to 3.5% fee).

• Checks should be made payable to St. Margaret of Cortona Region, and mailed to Randy Bender, 929 North Danville St. Arlington, VA 22201-1921.

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To enhance the participation of all our brothers and sisters, disability and dietary accommodations, and language interpretation/translation will be available throughout the Chapter of Mats. Please indicate your requests on the registration form.

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Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

July 1

St. Junipero Serra, Priest, Alcantarine Friars Minor, missionary (November 24, 1713-August 28, 1784)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/the-franciscan-saints-junipero-serra/>

Blesseds Marcello Maruzzo, Friar OFM (23 July 1929 – 1 July 1981) and Luis Navarro, OFS (21 June 1950 – 1 July 1981) Martyrs of Guatemala

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcello_Maruzzo_and_Luis_Navarro

July 3

Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta, Foundress, Franciscan Missionaries of the Mother of the Divine Shepherd (January 13, 1827-July 3, 1886)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrina_Mogas_Fontcuberta

July 4

St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Third Order Secular (1271-1336)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Elizabeth-of-Portugal>

St. John Zhang Huan, Martyr, Franciscan seminarian (August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-huan-john-st>

Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, Priest, OFM of the Alcantarines (September 9, 1802-July 4, 1854)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domenico_Mazzarella

St. Peter Zhang Banniu, Martyr, Secular Franciscan (1849-August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-banniu-peter-st>

July 8

Ss. Gregory Grassi, Hermine Grivot and Companions, First Order and Third Order Religious and Secular Franciscans, Martyrs of China (d. 1900)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0708-1042.htm>

July 9

Bl. Marija of Jesus Crucified Petković, Foundress, Third Order Regular (December 10, 1892-July 9, 1966)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20030606_petkovic_en.html

11 Martyrs of Damascus, Eight Franciscan Friars and Three Maronite Laymen (July 9, 1860)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/damascus-martyrs>

St. Nicholas Pieck and Companions: Anthony Hornaer, Anthony of Weert, Cornelius, Francis, Godfrey, Jerome, Nicasius, Peter, Theodoric, Willehad, Martyrs of Holland (d. 1572)

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11065b.htm>

St. Veronica Giuliani, Capuchin Poor Clare (December 27, 1660-July 9, 1727)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-veronica-giuliani.html>

July 12

St. John Jones and John Wall, First Order, Martyrs of England (c. 1530-1598; 1620-1679)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-john-jones-and-john-wall>

Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, First Spouses Canonized Together

<http://saintsresource.com/louis-and-zelig-martin/>

July 13

Bl. Angeline of Marsciano, Foundress, Third Order Regular (1357-July 14, 1435)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angeline_of_Marsciano

July 14

St. Francisco Solano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Missionary (March 10, 1549-July 14, 1610)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Solanus

July 15

Bl. Bernard of Baden, Third Order Secular (c. 1428-July 15, 1458)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-bernard-of-baden.html>

- July 15
St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, Cardinal, Minister General Order Friars Minor, Doctor of the Church (1221-July 15, 1274)
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Bonaventure>
- July 16
Canonization of St. Francis on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX
<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/bull-of-canonization-of-st-francis-of-assisi-mira-circa-nos-7860>
St. Marie-Madeleine Postel, Foundress, Third Order Regular (November 28, 1756-July 16, 1846)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/postel-marie-madeleine-st>
- July 18
St. Camillus de Lellis, Capuchin Novitiate before founding Ministers to the Sick (May 25, 1550-July 14, 1614)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-camillus-de-lellis/>
- July 19
Bl. Peter of Cresci, Priest, Third Order Secular (d. July 19, 1323)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-cresci.html>
- July 19
Bl. Herman Stepien, First Order Conventual, Polish Martyr (October 21, 1910-July 19, 1943)
<https://carmelitesph.org/memorial-of-blessed-karol-herman-stepien/>
- July 21
St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Doctor of the Church (July 22, 1559-July 22, 1619)
<http://catholicism.org/saint-lawrence-of-brindisi-apostolic-doctor.html>
- July 23
St. Kunigunde of Poland, Abbess, Poor Clare Sisters (March 5, 1224-July 24, 1292)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunigunde_of_Poland
- July 24
Bl. Louise of Savoy, Poor Clare Nun (December 28, 1461-July 25, 1503)
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0724-23.htm>
- July 25
Bl. Antonio Lucci, Bishop, OFM Conventual (August 2, 1682-July 25, 1752)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Lucci
- July 26
St. Bartolomea Capitanio, Third Order Secular before founding another order (January 13, 1807-July 26, 1833)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartolomea_Capitanio
- July 27
Bl. Archangelo of Calatafimi, Religious, Friars Minor of the Observance (d. 1460)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/archangelo-calatafimi-bl>
Bl. Maria Maddalena Martinengo, Capuchin Poor Clare nun (October 5, 1687-July 27, 1737)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-magdalene-martinengo.html>
Bl. Nevolo of Faenza, Third Order Secular (13th Cent.-July 27, 1280)
<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-nevolo-of-faenza/>
- July 28
St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception, Franciscan Clarist Congregation (August 19, 1910-July 28, 1946)
http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/2008/ns_lit_doc_20081012_alfonsa_en.html
Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska, Capuchin Poor Clares, Martyr (d. 1941)
<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/maria-teresa-kowalska/>

July 30

Bl. Bertrand de la Tour, Cardinal, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1262-1332)

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0730-23.htm>

Bl. Solanus Casey, Priest, OFM Capuchin (November 25, 1870-July 31, 1957)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solanus_Casey

August 2

Feast of St. Mary of the Angels of the Portiuncula - Plenary indulgence available

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12286a.htm>

August 4

Bl. Frédéric Janssoone, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 19, 1838-August 4, 1916)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frédéric_Janssoone

St. John Vianney, Priest, Third Order Secular (May 8, 1786-August 4, 1859)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08326c.htm>

August 6

Bl. Maria Francesca Rubatto, Founder, Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto
(February 14, 1844-August 6, 1904)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Maria_Rubatto

August 7

Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian, Priests, OFM Capuchin, Martyrs (d. 1638)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-agathangel-and-cassian.html>

August 8

Holy Father St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers and Cordbearer
(August 8, 1170-August 6, 1221)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05106a.htm>

August 9

Bl. John of La Verna, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (1259-August 9, 1322)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-la-verna.html>

St Francis of Assisi-Consumed by the Gospel

At the heart of the Christian faith is the Incarnation. I don't know what I would do without Jesus; abstract talk about God always left me empty and longing for more. I need God made flesh, human like us, walking our streets, even in our shoes, teaching us the way of God. I also need people to teach me again the reality of the Incarnation in their own lives and history. We all need that.

Francis is perhaps our greatest teacher. He has been called both "the first Christian" and "the last Christian." My struggle is just that; his life presents the gospel in such stark contrast to the world, to the church, and to my own life. Sometimes his example convinces me that it is indeed possible, with God's abundant grace, to live the gospel life. Other times his star shines so bright that it only exposes my own darkness. Francis converts me over and over to Jesus, but he also makes me sometimes wonder if I really am or want to be a Christian. He both points to the great possibility and shows me how much further I have to go to see what he saw.

...

I must warn you that if you begin to follow after him as he dances through the world, he will certainly turn your life upside down, as he has mine. It is a journey that I still find myself very much in the middle of.

I don't know where the journey will end, either for me or for you. But I do know that I want to commend him to you. Once you have looked into his eyes, you will never see the same way again.

Jim Wallis, Joyce Hollyday, *Cloud of Witnesses: Revised Edition*, Maryknoll, NY; Orbis Books, 1991, pp. 7-8.

Evening Sermon on Saint Francis

Preached at Paris, October 4, 1255

...He can always say to us; *Learn from me for I am humble of heart*, Learn, that is, to have true, not counterfeit, humility as hypocrites cunningly humble themselves. Of these, Sirach says: *There is one who humbles himself wickedly and inwardly he is full of deceit*, (Sir 19:23) and St. Paul writes to the Colossians: *Let no man disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind*. (Col 2:18) He is not encouraging us to that kind of humility, but to the humility of heart on which Saint Bernard writes: The truly humble man wants to be considered despicable rather than proclaimed a humble man.”ⁱ

Saint Francis possessed this humility supremely. He loved and sought it, from the origin of his religious life until his death. For this he left the world, ordered that he be dragged naked through a city, ministered to lepers, told his own sins while preaching and even commanded others to pour scorn on him. We ought to learn this virtue especially from him.

That we may desire it let us look at the fruits which make it so attractive, the manner in which it is acquired and the means by which it is maintained.

The fruits of humility are manifold. First, it calms the anger of God, while moving him to suspend judgment due to guilt. This is well exemplified in the Book of

Kings where the Lord says to Elijah: *Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days*. (1 Kg 21:29) What extraordinary power humility has, that it can contain the hand of God! The psalmist tells us: *The Lord is the keeper of little ones: I was humbled and he delivered me*, (Ps 116A:6) and Saint James says: *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble*. He protects and guards them, as the Psalmist says: *The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a contrite and humbled heart, O God, you will not despise*, (Ps 51:19)

The second fruit of humility is that it finds grace. Just as anyone looking for water must dig down into the earth, so anyone longing to find *living water* (Jn 4:10) has to dig a well of humility inside himself. As Sirach says: *The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself and you will find grace before God*. (Sir 3:20 Jas 4:6) ...

To be continued next Month

Regis J Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap., J. A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv., William J. Short, O.F.M., editors, *The Founder: Volume II of Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, New York: New City Press, 2000, pp.519-520.

ⁱ Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermon 16:10, *On the Song of Songs I*, The Works of Bernard of Clairvaux, vol II translated by Lilian Walsh and introduced by M. Corneille Halfants (Spencer, MA: Cistercian Publications, 1971), 121.



July 2024

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

Meeting – 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, July 14, 2024 - We are collecting children's socks.

- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – We will be discussing Reflection 5 in *To Live as Francis Lived*
- *Fellowship*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Psalms, Short Reading and Intercessions from the Psalter Week III
 - Magnificat Antiphon and Closing Prayer from the Proper of Seasons for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbll4T20rZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Minister's Notes

This month I do not have a Council job description- we have run through those. Instead, I ask you to ponder what you professed at as a fraternity member. (See page 18 and following in your Ritual) I suggest praying about how you remember or resemble St. Francis of Assisi. Does your life reflect observing the holy gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by following in the footsteps of St. Francis? How?

1 Kings 21:27-29

And when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the evil upon his house.

When this turned up as part of a daily Mass reading in June I gnawed on it for a few days. It was good to think that humility is recognized by the Almighty. Humility implies an understanding that I am a creature and God is not. I think it also implies an understanding that I messed up; I am a sinner. That is something we strive for in the confessional, the recognition and acknowledgment of our sin.

When you mix this understanding with God being love and a definition of love being the willing of the good of the other, the result is plenty to chew on for a couple of weeks.

My meditation took the form of an imagined dialog with God. "I am a sinner. I messed up. Let the punishment fall where it belongs, on me. Do not reward me by punishing those I love. Whenever possible, my children should not pay for my mistakes.

But children do pay for our mistakes. Our priorities affect those around us. Are we living for the good of the other? Do our priorities place other before self? "Whatever I am not using belongs to the poor." I suspect this resonates with people who can put names and faces to the other. Maybe we need to broaden our vision.

Our neighbors, friends, fraternity members, parishioners... all gain an impression of us by how we live our lives. If you dropped dead tonight, how would you be remembered?

Selfish or Selfless
Giving or Receiving

Prayer Intentions

For...

- Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.
- Peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.
- Virginia Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS.
- For the repose of the soul of Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, OFS, and the consolation of her husband, Bob
- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, for

(S)he always sat in that pew.

It doesn't take an extravert to be aware of others and be willing their good.

This month, July, we will collect children's socks. Being a grandparent gives me a renewed appreciation for the escape plans of single socks in the wash, particularly the smaller size socks. Our Mother of Light can use children's socks. They will also take adult sizes if you have already bought socks.

Next month we cycle back to food. Summer is hard when a family relies on school lunches to keep children fed. Years ago (pre pandemic, when I was still working...I volunteered in a high school tutoring program after work. Our orientation as tutors tried to prepare us to work with teens who were strangers to the white-collar world. One thing struck me, we were warned that many students were used to picking a subject to fail by the end of the first quarter. They often chose the subject they were most interested in so summer days would be filled with a subject they liked. The reason their family encouraged this was they had free breakfast and lunch in summer school-food and childcare for the cost of failing a subject. One of our tasks as high school tutors was to break this cycle so they had a chance at college. Your food donation might help see a family through until Labor Day.

Pax et Bonum,

Andrea

depression.

- The sister of a friend of April, who does not want her sister to pray for her.
- April's friend, whose husband avoids Church, and his ex-wife who never went to Church.
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.
- Prisoners, sick, poor, hungry, lonely, homeless, unemployed and those with no one to pray for them.
- The health, protection and guidance of all priests and bishops including Pope Francis.
- The union of all Christians.
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

Professions

No professions in July

Birthdays of the Month

July

Ann Wester (9th)
Angela Gill (12th)
Patrick Birello (12th)
Joseph Kennedy (16th)

August

Elizabeth Shaeffer (15th)
Andrea Bender (21st)

Necrology

Hilma M. Boyd – July 14, 1989
Dorothy Furey – July 3, 2014

Secretary's Note

This is my last appeal for the Chapter of Mats. The Registration info is on Page 4. You can also contact Sita or myself if you have any questions. The Fraternity is offering to subsidize the event over the deposit amount. Please contact Andrea if you want the subsidy.

The 2024 Mats Planning Committee would like all Seculars in the Region to pray for the success of this chapter and our prayer for the Chapter of Mats is on page 3.

I would like to call to mind that July 12th is the feast of Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, first spouses canonized together and the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The Carmelites also claim them because of St. Thérèse and three of her sisters entered the Carmel of Lisieux as well.

Also, on July 15th, we celebrate the Seraphic Doctor, St. Bonaventure. On page 8 is an excerpt of a homily by this saint that dovetails quite well with Andrea's message. Also, I stumbled upon this excerpt.

Peace and Good, Randy

PRAYER FOR THE ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF MATS

September 6-8, 2024

Most high and glorious God,
we ask for your blessing
upon our upcoming Chapter of Mats.

We thank you for our call to live the Gospel following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis.

We thank you for those who have gone before us, who preserved our charism throughout the centuries.

We thank you for our current leaders, who serve us and help us to grow in our understanding of our vocation.

And we thank you for future leaders, the shepherds that are to come.

We ask you to send down your Holy Spirit upon us as we journey toward our 2024 Chapter of Mats.

Prepare all of us, Lord, as we ask for fraternal Love to love as you love;
Humility to listen to one another;
Wisdom to see the future you would have us build;
Courage to follow your direction; and
Grace to spread seeds of goodness and joy throughout our time at Chapter and beyond.

Lord, as we anticipate coming together to celebrate Where we were, where we are, and where we are called to be as Secular Franciscans, let us remember to see and treat all "...as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ."¹

And so we pray,
Holy God, draw us together as a community,
take charge of our Chapter of Mats,
and lead us into the future.

Father, we adore you and give you all
praise, honor, and glory,
Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
In union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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What unique gifts do we have to offer?

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<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Elizabeth-of-Portugal>

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<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-huan-john-st>

Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, Priest, OFM of the Alcantarines (September 9, 1802-July 4, 1854)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domenico_Mazzarella

St. Peter Zhang Banniu, Martyr, Secular Franciscan (1849-August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-banniu-peter-st>

July 8

Ss. Gregory Grassi, Hermine Grivot and Companions, First Order and Third Order Religious and Secular Franciscans, Martyrs of China (d. 1900)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0708-1042.htm>

July 9

Bl. Marija of Jesus Crucified Petković, Foundress, Third Order Regular (December 10, 1892-July 9, 1966)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20030606_petkovic_en.html

11 Martyrs of Damascus, Eight Franciscan Friars and Three Maronite Laymen (July 9, 1860)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/damascus-martyrs>

St. Nicholas Pieck and Companions: Anthony Hornaer, Anthony of Weert, Cornelius, Francis, Godfrey, Jerome, Nicasius, Peter, Theodoric, Willehad, Martyrs of Holland (d. 1572)

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11065b.htm>

St. Veronica Giuliani, Capuchin Poor Clare (December 27, 1660-July 9, 1727)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-veronica-giuliani.html>

July 12

St. John Jones and John Wall, First Order, Martyrs of England (c. 1530-1598; 1620-1679)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-john-jones-and-john-wall>

Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, First Spouses Canonized Together

<http://saintsresource.com/louis-and-zelig-martin/>

July 13

Bl. Angeline of Marsciano, Foundress, Third Order Regular (1357-July 14, 1435)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angeline_of_Marsciano

July 14

St. Francisco Solano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Missionary (March 10, 1549-July 14, 1610)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Solanus

July 15

Bl. Bernard of Baden, Third Order Secular (c. 1428-July 15, 1458)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-bernard-of-baden.html>

- July 15
St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, Cardinal, Minister General Order Friars Minor, Doctor of the Church (1221-July 15, 1274)
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Bonaventure>
- July 16
Canonization of St. Francis on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX
<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/bull-of-canonization-of-st-francis-of-assisi-mira-circa-nos-7860>
St. Marie-Madeleine Postel, Foundress, Third Order Regular (November 28, 1756-July 16, 1846)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/postel-marie-madeleine-st>
- July 18
St. Camillus de Lellis, Capuchin Novitiate before founding Ministers to the Sick (May 25, 1550-July 14, 1614)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-camillus-de-lellis/>
- July 19
Bl. Peter of Cresci, Priest, Third Order Secular (d. July 19, 1323)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-cresci.html>
- July 19
Bl. Herman Stepien, First Order Conventual, Polish Martyr (October 21, 1910-July 19, 1943)
<https://carmelitesph.org/memorial-of-blessed-karol-herman-stepien/>
- July 21
St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Doctor of the Church (July 22, 1559-July 22, 1619)
<http://catholicism.org/saint-lawrence-of-brindisi-apostolic-doctor.html>
- July 23
St. Kunigunde of Poland, Abbess, Poor Clare Sisters (March 5, 1224-July 24, 1292)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunigunde_of_Poland
- July 24
Bl. Louise of Savoy, Poor Clare Nun (December 28, 1461-July 25, 1503)
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0724-23.htm>
- July 25
Bl. Antonio Lucci, Bishop, OFM Conventual (August 2, 1682-July 25, 1752)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Lucci
- July 26
St. Bartolomea Capitanio, Third Order Secular before founding another order (January 13, 1807-July 26, 1833)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartolomea_Capitanio
- July 27
Bl. Archangelo of Calatafimi, Religious, Friars Minor of the Observance (d. 1460)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/archangelo-calatafimi-bl>
Bl. Maria Maddalena Martinengo, Capuchin Poor Clare nun (October 5, 1687-July 27, 1737)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-magdalene-martinengo.html>
Bl. Nevolo of Faenza, Third Order Secular (13th Cent.-July 27, 1280)
<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-nevolo-of-faenza/>
- July 28
St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception, Franciscan Clarist Congregation (August 19, 1910-July 28, 1946)
http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/2008/ns_lit_doc_20081012_alfonsa_en.html
Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska, Capuchin Poor Clares, Martyr (d. 1941)
<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/maria-teresa-kowalska/>

July 30

Bl. Bertrand de la Tour, Cardinal, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1262-1332)

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0730-23.htm>

Bl. Solanus Casey, Priest, OFM Capuchin (November 25, 1870-July 31, 1957)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solanus_Casey

August 2

Feast of St. Mary of the Angels of the Portiuncula - Plenary indulgence available

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12286a.htm>

August 4

Bl. Frédéric Janssoone, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 19, 1838-August 4, 1916)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frédéric_Janssoone

St. John Vianney, Priest, Third Order Secular (May 8, 1786-August 4, 1859)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08326c.htm>

August 6

Bl. Maria Francesca Rubatto, Founder, Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto
(February 14, 1844-August 6, 1904)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Maria_Rubatto

August 7

Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian, Priests, OFM Capuchin, Martyrs (d. 1638)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-agathangel-and-cassian.html>

August 8

Holy Father St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers and Cordbearer
(August 8, 1170-August 6, 1221)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05106a.htm>

August 9

Bl. John of La Verna, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (1259-August 9, 1322)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-la-verna.html>

St Francis of Assisi-Consumed by the Gospel

At the heart of the Christian faith is the Incarnation. I don't know what I would do without Jesus; abstract talk about God always left me empty and longing for more. I need God made flesh, human like us, walking our streets, even in our shoes, teaching us the way of God. I also need people to teach me again the reality of the Incarnation in their own lives and history. We all need that.

Francis is perhaps our greatest teacher. He has been called both "the first Christian" and "the last Christian." My struggle is just that; his life presents the gospel in such stark contrast to the world, to the church, and to my own life. Sometimes his example convinces me that it is indeed possible, with God's abundant grace, to live the gospel life. Other times his star shines so bright that it only exposes my own darkness. Francis converts me over and over to Jesus, but he also makes me sometimes wonder if I really am or want to be a Christian. He both points to the great possibility and shows me how much further I have to go to see what he saw.

...

I must warn you that if you begin to follow after him as he dances through the world, he will certainly turn your life upside down, as he has mine. It is a journey that I still find myself very much in the middle of.

I don't know where the journey will end, either for me or for you. But I do know that I want to commend him to you. Once you have looked into his eyes, you will never see the same way again.

Jim Wallis, Joyce Hollyday, *Cloud of Witnesses: Revised Edition*, Maryknoll, NY; Orbis Books, 1991, pp. 7-8.

Evening Sermon on Saint Francis

Preached at Paris, October 4, 1255

...He can always say to us; *Learn from me for I am humble of heart*, Learn, that is, to have true, not counterfeit, humility as hypocrites cunningly humble themselves. Of these, Sirach says: *There is one who humbles himself wickedly and inwardly he is full of deceit*, (Sir 19:23) and St. Paul writes to the Colossians: *Let no man disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind*. (Col 2:18) He is not encouraging us to that kind of humility, but to the humility of heart on which Saint Bernard writes: The truly humble man wants to be considered despicable rather than proclaimed a humble man.”ⁱ

Saint Francis possessed this humility supremely. He loved and sought it, from the origin of his religious life until his death. For this he left the world, ordered that he be dragged naked through a city, ministered to lepers, told his own sins while preaching and even commanded others to pour scorn on him. We ought to learn this virtue especially from him.

That we may desire it let us look at the fruits which make it so attractive, the manner in which it is acquired and the means by which it is maintained.

The fruits of humility are manifold. First, it calms the anger of God, while moving him to suspend judgment due to guilt. This is well exemplified in the Book of

Kings where the Lord says to Elijah: *Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days*. (1 Kg 21:29) What extraordinary power humility has, that it can contain the hand of God! The psalmist tells us: *The Lord is the keeper of little ones: I was humbled and he delivered me*, (Ps 116A:6) and Saint James says: *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble*. He protects and guards them, as the Psalmist says: *The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a contrite and humbled heart, O God, you will not despise*, (Ps 51:19)

The second fruit of humility is that it finds grace. Just as anyone looking for water must dig down into the earth, so anyone longing to find *living water* (Jn 4:10) has to dig a well of humility inside himself. As Sirach says: *The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself and you will find grace before God*. (Sir 3:20 Jas 4:6) ...

To be continued next Month

Regis J Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap., J. A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv., William J. Short, O.F.M., editors, *The Founder: Volume II of Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, New York: New City Press, 2000, pp.519-520.

ⁱ Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermon 16:10, *On the Song of Songs I*, The Works of Bernard of Clairvaux, vol II translated by Lilian Walsh and introduced by M. Corneille Halfants (Spencer, MA: Cistercian Publications, 1971), 121.



July 2024

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

Meeting – 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, July 14, 2024 - We are collecting children's socks.

- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – We will be discussing Reflection 5 in *To Live as Francis Lived*
- *Fellowship*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Psalms, Short Reading and Intercessions from the Psalter Week III
 - Magnificat Antiphon and Closing Prayer from the Proper of Seasons for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbll4T20rZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Minister's Notes

This month I do not have a Council job description- we have run through those. Instead, I ask you to ponder what you professed at as a fraternity member. (See page 18 and following in your Ritual) I suggest praying about how you remember or resemble St. Francis of Assisi. Does your life reflect observing the holy gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by following in the footsteps of St. Francis? How?

1 Kings 21:27-29

And when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the evil upon his house."

When this turned up as part of a daily Mass reading in June I gnawed on it for a few days. It was good to think that humility is recognized by the Almighty. Humility implies an understanding that I am a creature and God is not. I think it also implies an understanding that I messed up; I am a sinner. That is something we strive for in the confessional, the recognition and acknowledgment of our sin.

When you mix this understanding with God being love and a definition of love being the willing of the good of the other, the result is plenty to chew on for a couple of weeks.

My meditation took the form of an imagined dialog with God. "I am a sinner. I messed up. Let the punishment fall where it belongs, on me. Do not reward me by punishing those I love. Whenever possible, my children should not pay for my mistakes.

But children do pay for our mistakes. Our priorities affect those around us. Are we living for the good of the other? Do our priorities place other before self? "Whatever I am not using belongs to the poor." I suspect this resonates with people who can put names and faces to the other. Maybe we need to broaden our vision.

Our neighbors, friends, fraternity members, parishioners... all gain an impression of us by how we live our lives. If you dropped dead tonight, how would you be remembered?

Selfish or Selfless
Giving or Receiving

Prayer Intentions

For...

- Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.
- Peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.
- Virginia Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS.
- For the repose of the soul of Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, OFS, and the consolation of her husband, Bob
- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, for

(S)he always sat in that pew.

It doesn't take an extravert to be aware of others and be willing their good.

This month, July, we will collect children's socks. Being a grandparent gives me a renewed appreciation for the escape plans of single socks in the wash, particularly the smaller size socks. Our Mother of Light can use children's socks. They will also take adult sizes if you have already bought socks.

Next month we cycle back to food. Summer is hard when a family relies on school lunches to keep children fed. Years ago (pre pandemic, when I was still working...I volunteered in a high school tutoring program after work. Our orientation as tutors tried to prepare us to work with teens who were strangers to the white-collar world. One thing struck me, we were warned that many students were used to picking a subject to fail by the end of the first quarter. They often chose the subject they were most interested in so summer days would be filled with a subject they liked. The reason their family encouraged this was they had free breakfast and lunch in summer school-food and childcare for the cost of failing a subject. One of our tasks as high school tutors was to break this cycle so they had a chance at college. Your food donation might help see a family through until Labor Day.

Pax et Bonum,

Andrea

depression.

- The sister of a friend of April, who does not want her sister to pray for her.
- April's friend, whose husband avoids Church, and his ex-wife who never went to Church.
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.
- Prisoners, sick, poor, hungry, lonely, homeless, unemployed and those with no one to pray for them.
- The health, protection and guidance of all priests and bishops including Pope Francis.
- The union of all Christians.
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

Professions

No professions in July

Birthdays of the Month

July

Ann Wester (9th)
Angela Gill (12th)
Patrick Birello (12th)
Joseph Kennedy (16th)

August

Elizabeth Shaeffer (15th)
Andrea Bender (21st)

Necrology

Hilma M. Boyd – July 14, 1989
Dorothy Furey – July 3, 2014

Secretary's Note

This is my last appeal for the Chapter of Mats. The Registration info is on Page 4. You can also contact Sita or myself if you have any questions. The Fraternity is offering to subsidize the event over the deposit amount. Please contact Andrea if you want the subsidy.

The 2024 Mats Planning Committee would like all Seculars in the Region to pray for the success of this chapter and our prayer for the Chapter of Mats is on page 3.

I would like to call to mind that July 12th is the feast of Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, first spouses canonized together and the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The Carmelites also claim them because of St. Thérèse and three of her sisters entered the Carmel of Lisieux as well.

Also, on July 15th, we celebrate the Seraphic Doctor, St. Bonaventure. On page 8 is an excerpt of a homily by this saint that dovetails quite well with Andrea's message. Also, I stumbled upon this excerpt.

Peace and Good, Randy

PRAYER FOR THE ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF MATS

September 6-8, 2024

Most high and glorious God,
we ask for your blessing
upon our upcoming Chapter of Mats.

We thank you for our call to live the Gospel following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis.

We thank you for those who have gone before us, who preserved our charism throughout the centuries.

We thank you for our current leaders, who serve us and help us to grow in our understanding of our vocation.

And we thank you for future leaders, the shepherds that are to come.

We ask you to send down your Holy Spirit upon us as we journey toward our 2024 Chapter of Mats.

Prepare all of us, Lord, as we ask for fraternal Love to love as you love;
Humility to listen to one another;
Wisdom to see the future you would have us build;
Courage to follow your direction; and
Grace to spread seeds of goodness and joy throughout our time at Chapter and beyond.

Lord, as we anticipate coming together to celebrate Where we were, where we are, and where we are called to be as Secular Franciscans, let us remember to see and treat all
“...as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.”¹

And so we pray,
Holy God, draw us together as a community,
take charge of our Chapter of Mats,
and lead us into the future.

Father, we adore you and give you all
praise, honor, and glory,
Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
In union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

Registration is NOW OPEN for our September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats to be held at the Beautiful Claggett Center in Adamstown, Maryland. Under the theme of The Next 800 Years, we will explore where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going.

How are we as Secular Franciscans poised to bring Christ to our world?
What unique gifts do we have to offer?

Deadlines: *Deposit:* \$150.00 *Due with registration*
Full remaining balance Based on housing selection: *Due by August 1, 2024*

Note: Full refunds are available until July 15, feast of St. Bonaventure. After July 15, all reservations are final and non-refundable.

Housing Options: Remaining options will include double hotel-like rooms with private baths in the Christiane Inn, in close proximity to the dining room and meeting rooms. Accommodations are also available in cottages, downhill from the dining and meeting space. Cottages have two twin beds per room and shared baths down the hall. The Commuter Option is now available. The cost is \$150 and includes all meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days. Please consider requesting financial assistance for overnight housing if you are choosing this option due to cost.

Event Costs: All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and registration fees are included in the cost of the rooms and the commuter fee. The lodging cost is based on the type of housing selected from the options below. There are no additional fees.

Lodging Options:

- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for 2 persons (\$275 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for three persons (\$230 per person) – must designate roommates
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$210 per person) – must designate roommates
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$235 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned (no single rooms in cottages)
- Commuter fee – meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days (\$150 per person)

Payment Options:

Payment can be made via check or credit card (subject to 3.5% fee).

• Checks should be made payable to St. Margaret of Cortona Region, and mailed to Randy Bender, 929 North Danville St. Arlington, VA 22201-1921.

• If you wish to pay by credit card (with additional 3.5% fee), mark that box on the registration form and you will receive an invoice and payment instructions from Randy Bender.

To enhance the participation of all our brothers and sisters, disability and dietary accommodations, and language interpretation/translation will be available throughout the Chapter of Mats. Please indicate your requests on the registration form.

To Register, Click here for fillable form: <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Registration-Foirm-Revised.pdf>

If you have any questions or need help with registering, email Randy Bender at benderclan@verizon.net and to Janice Benton at jbentonsfo@gmail.com.

For More Info: https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-Chapter-of-Mats-Flyer_Rev.-06.03.2024.pdf.pdf

Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

July 1

St. Junipero Serra, Priest, Alcantarine Friars Minor, missionary (November 24, 1713-August 28, 1784)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/the-franciscan-saints-junipero-serra/>

Blesseds Marcello Maruzzo, Friar OFM (23 July 1929 – 1 July 1981) and Luis Navarro, OFS (21 June 1950 – 1 July 1981) Martyrs of Guatemala

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcello_Maruzzo_and_Luis_Navarro

July 3

Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta, Foundress, Franciscan Missionaries of the Mother of the Divine Shepherd (January 13, 1827-July 3, 1886)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrina_Mogas_Fontcuberta

July 4

St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Third Order Secular (1271-1336)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Elizabeth-of-Portugal>

St. John Zhang Huan, Martyr, Franciscan seminarian (August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-huan-john-st>

Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, Priest, OFM of the Alcantarines (September 9, 1802-July 4, 1854)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domenico_Mazzarella

St. Peter Zhang Banniu, Martyr, Secular Franciscan (1849-August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-banniu-peter-st>

July 8

Ss. Gregory Grassi, Hermine Grivot and Companions, First Order and Third Order Religious and Secular Franciscans, Martyrs of China (d. 1900)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0708-1042.htm>

July 9

Bl. Marija of Jesus Crucified Petković, Foundress, Third Order Regular (December 10, 1892-July 9, 1966)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20030606_petkovic_en.html

11 Martyrs of Damascus, Eight Franciscan Friars and Three Maronite Laymen (July 9, 1860)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/damascus-martyrs>

St. Nicholas Pieck and Companions: Anthony Hornaer, Anthony of Weert, Cornelius, Francis, Godfrey, Jerome, Nicasius, Peter, Theodoric, Willehad, Martyrs of Holland (d. 1572)

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11065b.htm>

St. Veronica Giuliani, Capuchin Poor Clare (December 27, 1660-July 9, 1727)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-veronica-giuliani.html>

July 12

St. John Jones and John Wall, First Order, Martyrs of England (c. 1530-1598; 1620-1679)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-john-jones-and-john-wall>

Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, First Spouses Canonized Together

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July 13

Bl. Angeline of Marsciano, Foundress, Third Order Regular (1357-July 14, 1435)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angeline_of_Marsciano

July 14

St. Francisco Solano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Missionary (March 10, 1549-July 14, 1610)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Solanus

July 15

Bl. Bernard of Baden, Third Order Secular (c. 1428-July 15, 1458)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-bernard-of-baden.html>

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St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, Cardinal, Minister General Order Friars Minor, Doctor of the Church (1221-July 15, 1274)
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Canonization of St. Francis on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX
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<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/postel-marie-madeleine-st>
- July 18
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<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-camillus-de-lellis/>
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Bl. Herman Stepien, First Order Conventual, Polish Martyr (October 21, 1910-July 19, 1943)
<https://carmelitesph.org/memorial-of-blessed-karol-herman-stepien/>
- July 21
St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Doctor of the Church (July 22, 1559-July 22, 1619)
<http://catholicism.org/saint-lawrence-of-brindisi-apostolic-doctor.html>
- July 23
St. Kunigunde of Poland, Abbess, Poor Clare Sisters (March 5, 1224-July 24, 1292)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunigunde_of_Poland
- July 24
Bl. Louise of Savoy, Poor Clare Nun (December 28, 1461-July 25, 1503)
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0724-23.htm>
- July 25
Bl. Antonio Lucci, Bishop, OFM Conventual (August 2, 1682-July 25, 1752)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Lucci
- July 26
St. Bartolomea Capitanio, Third Order Secular before founding another order (January 13, 1807-July 26, 1833)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartolomea_Capitanio
- July 27
Bl. Archangelo of Calatafimi, Religious, Friars Minor of the Observance (d. 1460)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/archangelo-calatafimi-bl>
Bl. Maria Maddalena Martinengo, Capuchin Poor Clare nun (October 5, 1687-July 27, 1737)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-magdalene-martinengo.html>
Bl. Nevolo of Faenza, Third Order Secular (13th Cent.-July 27, 1280)
<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-nevolo-of-faenza/>
- July 28
St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception, Franciscan Clarist Congregation (August 19, 1910-July 28, 1946)
http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/2008/ns_lit_doc_20081012_alfonsa_en.html
Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska, Capuchin Poor Clares, Martyr (d. 1941)
<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/maria-teresa-kowalska/>

July 30

Bl. Bertrand de la Tour, Cardinal, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1262-1332)

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0730-23.htm>

Bl. Solanus Casey, Priest, OFM Capuchin (November 25, 1870-July 31, 1957)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solanus_Casey

August 2

Feast of St. Mary of the Angels of the Portiuncula - Plenary indulgence available

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12286a.htm>

August 4

Bl. Frédéric Janssoone, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 19, 1838-August 4, 1916)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frédéric_Janssoone

St. John Vianney, Priest, Third Order Secular (May 8, 1786-August 4, 1859)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08326c.htm>

August 6

Bl. Maria Francesca Rubatto, Founder, Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto
(February 14, 1844-August 6, 1904)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Maria_Rubatto

August 7

Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian, Priests, OFM Capuchin, Martyrs (d. 1638)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-agathangel-and-cassian.html>

August 8

Holy Father St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers and Cordbearer
(August 8, 1170-August 6, 1221)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05106a.htm>

August 9

Bl. John of La Verna, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (1259-August 9, 1322)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-la-verna.html>

St Francis of Assisi-Consumed by the Gospel

At the heart of the Christian faith is the Incarnation. I don't know what I would do without Jesus; abstract talk about God always left me empty and longing for more. I need God made flesh, human like us, walking our streets, even in our shoes, teaching us the way of God. I also need people to teach me again the reality of the Incarnation in their own lives and history. We all need that.

Francis is perhaps our greatest teacher. He has been called both "the first Christian" and "the last Christian." My struggle is just that; his life presents the gospel in such stark contrast to the world, to the church, and to my own life. Sometimes his example convinces me that it is indeed possible, with God's abundant grace, to live the gospel life. Other times his star shines so bright that it only exposes my own darkness. Francis converts me over and over to Jesus, but he also makes me sometimes wonder if I really am or want to be a Christian. He both points to the great possibility and shows me how much further I have to go to see what he saw.

...

I must warn you that if you begin to follow after him as he dances through the world, he will certainly turn your life upside down, as he has mine. It is a journey that I still find myself very much in the middle of.

I don't know where the journey will end, either for me or for you. But I do know that I want to commend him to you. Once you have looked into his eyes, you will never see the same way again.

Jim Wallis, Joyce Hollyday, *Cloud of Witnesses: Revised Edition*, Maryknoll, NY; Orbis Books, 1991, pp. 7-8.

Evening Sermon on Saint Francis

Preached at Paris, October 4, 1255

...He can always say to us; *Learn from me for I am humble of heart*, Learn, that is, to have true, not counterfeit, humility as hypocrites cunningly humble themselves. Of these, Sirach says: *There is one who humbles himself wickedly and inwardly he is full of deceit*, (Sir 19:23) and St. Paul writes to the Colossians: *Let no man disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind*. (Col 2:18) He is not encouraging us to that kind of humility, but to the humility of heart on which Saint Bernard writes: The truly humble man wants to be considered despicable rather than proclaimed a humble man.”ⁱ

Saint Francis possessed this humility supremely. He loved and sought it, from the origin of his religious life until his death. For this he left the world, ordered that he be dragged naked through a city, ministered to lepers, told his own sins while preaching and even commanded others to pour scorn on him. We ought to learn this virtue especially from him.

That we may desire it let us look at the fruits which make it so attractive, the manner in which it is acquired and the means by which it is maintained.

The fruits of humility are manifold. First, it calms the anger of God, while moving him to suspend judgment due to guilt. This is well exemplified in the Book of

Kings where the Lord says to Elijah: *Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days*. (1 Kg 21:29) What extraordinary power humility has, that it can contain the hand of God! The psalmist tells us: *The Lord is the keeper of little ones: I was humbled and he delivered me*, (Ps 116A:6) and Saint James says: *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble*. He protects and guards them, as the Psalmist says: *The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a contrite and humbled heart, O God, you will not despise*, (Ps 51:19)

The second fruit of humility is that it finds grace. Just as anyone looking for water must dig down into the earth, so anyone longing to find *living water* (Jn 4:10) has to dig a well of humility inside himself. As Sirach says: *The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself and you will find grace before God*. (Sir 3:20 Jas 4:6) ...

To be continued next Month

Regis J Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap., J. A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv., William J. Short, O.F.M., editors, *The Founder: Volume II of Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, New York: New City Press, 2000, pp.519-520.

ⁱ Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermon 16:10, *On the Song of Songs I*, The Works of Bernard of Clairvaux, vol II translated by Lilian Walsh and introduced by M. Corneille Halfants (Spencer, MA: Cistercian Publications, 1971), 121.



July 2024

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

Meeting – 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, July 14, 2024 - We are collecting children's socks.

- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – We will be discussing Reflection 5 in *To Live as Francis Lived*
- *Fellowship*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Psalms, Short Reading and Intercessions from the Psalter Week III
 - Magnificat Antiphon and Closing Prayer from the Proper of Seasons for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbll4T20rZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Minister's Notes

This month I do not have a Council job description- we have run through those. Instead, I ask you to ponder what you professed at as a fraternity member. (See page 18 and following in your Ritual) I suggest praying about how you remember or resemble St. Francis of Assisi. Does your life reflect observing the holy gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by following in the footsteps of St. Francis? How?

1 Kings 21:27-29

And when Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. And the Word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the evil upon his house."

When this turned up as part of a daily Mass reading in June I gnawed on it for a few days. It was good to think that humility is recognized by the Almighty. Humility implies an understanding that I am a creature and God is not. I think it also implies an understanding that I messed up; I am a sinner. That is something we strive for in the confessional, the recognition and acknowledgment of our sin.

When you mix this understanding with God being love and a definition of love being the willing of the good of the other, the result is plenty to chew on for a couple of weeks.

My meditation took the form of an imagined dialog with God. "I am a sinner. I messed up. Let the punishment fall where it belongs, on me. Do not reward me by punishing those I love. Whenever possible, my children should not pay for my mistakes.

But children do pay for our mistakes. Our priorities affect those around us. Are we living for the good of the other? Do our priorities place other before self? "Whatever I am not using belongs to the poor." I suspect this resonates with people who can put names and faces to the other. Maybe we need to broaden our vision.

Our neighbors, friends, fraternity members, parishioners... all gain an impression of us by how we live our lives. If you dropped dead tonight, how would you be remembered?

Selfish or Selfless
Giving or Receiving

Prayer Intentions

For...

- Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.
- Peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.
- Virginia Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS.
- For the repose of the soul of Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, OFS, and the consolation of her husband, Bob
- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, for

(S)he always sat in that pew.

It doesn't take an extravert to be aware of others and be willing their good.

This month, July, we will collect children's socks. Being a grandparent gives me a renewed appreciation for the escape plans of single socks in the wash, particularly the smaller size socks. Our Mother of Light can use children's socks. They will also take adult sizes if you have already bought socks.

Next month we cycle back to food. Summer is hard when a family relies on school lunches to keep children fed. Years ago (pre pandemic, when I was still working...I volunteered in a high school tutoring program after work. Our orientation as tutors tried to prepare us to work with teens who were strangers to the white-collar world. One thing struck me, we were warned that many students were used to picking a subject to fail by the end of the first quarter. They often chose the subject they were most interested in so summer days would be filled with a subject they liked. The reason their family encouraged this was they had free breakfast and lunch in summer school-food and childcare for the cost of failing a subject. One of our tasks as high school tutors was to break this cycle so they had a chance at college. Your food donation might help see a family through until Labor Day.

Pax et Bonum,

Andrea

depression.

- The sister of a friend of April, who does not want her sister to pray for her.
- April's friend, whose husband avoids Church, and his ex-wife who never went to Church.
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.
- Prisoners, sick, poor, hungry, lonely, homeless, unemployed and those with no one to pray for them.
- The health, protection and guidance of all priests and bishops including Pope Francis.
- The union of all Christians.
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

Professions

No professions in July

Birthdays of the Month

July

Ann Wester (9th)
Angela Gill (12th)
Patrick Birello (12th)
Joseph Kennedy (16th)

August

Elizabeth Shaeffer (15th)
Andrea Bender (21st)

Necrology

Hilma M. Boyd – July 14, 1989
Dorothy Furey – July 3, 2014

Secretary's Note

This is my last appeal for the Chapter of Mats. The Registration info is on Page 4. You can also contact Sita or myself if you have any questions. The Fraternity is offering to subsidize the event over the deposit amount. Please contact Andrea if you want the subsidy.

The 2024 Mats Planning Committee would like all Seculars in the Region to pray for the success of this chapter and our prayer for the Chapter of Mats is on page 3.

I would like to call to mind that July 12th is the feast of Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, first spouses canonized together and the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The Carmelites also claim them because of St. Thérèse and three of her sisters entered the Carmel of Lisieux as well.

Also, on July 15th, we celebrate the Seraphic Doctor, St. Bonaventure. On page 8 is an excerpt of a homily by this saint that dovetails quite well with Andrea's message. Also, I stumbled upon this excerpt.

Peace and Good, Randy

PRAYER FOR THE ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF MATS

September 6-8, 2024

Most high and glorious God,
we ask for your blessing
upon our upcoming Chapter of Mats.

We thank you for our call to live the Gospel following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis.

We thank you for those who have gone before us, who preserved our charism throughout the centuries.

We thank you for our current leaders, who serve us and help us to grow in our understanding of our vocation.

And we thank you for future leaders, the shepherds that are to come.

We ask you to send down your Holy Spirit upon us as we journey toward our 2024 Chapter of Mats.

Prepare all of us, Lord, as we ask for fraternal Love to love as you love;
Humility to listen to one another;
Wisdom to see the future you would have us build;
Courage to follow your direction; and
Grace to spread seeds of goodness and joy throughout our time at Chapter and beyond.

Lord, as we anticipate coming together to celebrate Where we were, where we are, and where we are called to be as Secular Franciscans, let us remember to see and treat all
“...as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.”¹

And so we pray,
Holy God, draw us together as a community,
take charge of our Chapter of Mats,
and lead us into the future.

Father, we adore you and give you all
praise, honor, and glory,
Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
In union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

Registration is NOW OPEN for our September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats to be held at the Beautiful Claggett Center in Adamstown, Maryland. Under the theme of The Next 800 Years, we will explore where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going.

How are we as Secular Franciscans poised to bring Christ to our world?
What unique gifts do we have to offer?

Deadlines: *Deposit:* \$150.00 *Due with registration*
Full remaining balance Based on housing selection: *Due by August 1, 2024*

Note: Full refunds are available until July 15, feast of St. Bonaventure. After July 15, all reservations are final and non-refundable.

Housing Options: Remaining options will include double hotel-like rooms with private baths in the Christiane Inn, in close proximity to the dining room and meeting rooms. Accommodations are also available in cottages, downhill from the dining and meeting space. Cottages have two twin beds per room and shared baths down the hall. The Commuter Option is now available. The cost is \$150 and includes all meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days. Please consider requesting financial assistance for overnight housing if you are choosing this option due to cost.

Event Costs: All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and registration fees are included in the cost of the rooms and the commuter fee. The lodging cost is based on the type of housing selected from the options below. There are no additional fees.

Lodging Options:

- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for 2 persons (\$275 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for three persons (\$230 per person) – must designate roommates
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$210 per person) – must designate roommates
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$235 per person) – roommate may be designated or assigned (no single rooms in cottages)
- Commuter fee – meals, liturgies, and group sessions for all three days (\$150 per person)

Payment Options:

Payment can be made via check or credit card (subject to 3.5% fee).

• Checks should be made payable to St. Margaret of Cortona Region, and mailed to Randy Bender, 929 North Danville St. Arlington, VA 22201-1921.

• If you wish to pay by credit card (with additional 3.5% fee), mark that box on the registration form and you will receive an invoice and payment instructions from Randy Bender.

To enhance the participation of all our brothers and sisters, disability and dietary accommodations, and language interpretation/translation will be available throughout the Chapter of Mats. Please indicate your requests on the registration form.

To Register, Click here for fillable form: <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Registration-Foirm-Revised.pdf>

If you have any questions or need help with registering, email Randy Bender at benderclan@verizon.net and to Janice Benton at jbentonsfo@gmail.com.

For More Info: https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-Chapter-of-Mats-Flyer_Rev.-06.03.2024.pdf.pdf

Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

July 1

St. Junipero Serra, Priest, Alcantarine Friars Minor, missionary (November 24, 1713-August 28, 1784)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/the-franciscan-saints-junipero-serra/>

Blesseds Marcello Maruzzo, Friar OFM (23 July 1929 – 1 July 1981) and Luis Navarro, OFS (21 June 1950 – 1 July 1981) Martyrs of Guatemala

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcello_Maruzzo_and_Luis_Navarro

July 3

Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta, Foundress, Franciscan Missionaries of the Mother of the Divine Shepherd (January 13, 1827-July 3, 1886)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrina_Mogas_Fontcuberta

July 4

St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Third Order Secular (1271-1336)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Elizabeth-of-Portugal>

St. John Zhang Huan, Martyr, Franciscan seminarian (August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-huan-john-st>

Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, Priest, OFM of the Alcantarines (September 9, 1802-July 4, 1854)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domenico_Mazzarella

St. Peter Zhang Banniu, Martyr, Secular Franciscan (1849-August 1838-July 9, 1900)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-banniu-peter-st>

July 8

Ss. Gregory Grassi, Hermine Grivot and Companions, First Order and Third Order Religious and Secular Franciscans, Martyrs of China (d. 1900)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0708-1042.htm>

July 9

Bl. Marija of Jesus Crucified Petković, Foundress, Third Order Regular (December 10, 1892-July 9, 1966)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20030606_petkovic_en.html

11 Martyrs of Damascus, Eight Franciscan Friars and Three Maronite Laymen (July 9, 1860)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/damascus-martyrs>

St. Nicholas Pieck and Companions: Anthony Hornaer, Anthony of Weert, Cornelius, Francis, Godfrey, Jerome, Nicasius, Peter, Theodoric, Willehad, Martyrs of Holland (d. 1572)

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11065b.htm>

St. Veronica Giuliani, Capuchin Poor Clare (December 27, 1660-July 9, 1727)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-veronica-giuliani.html>

July 12

St. John Jones and John Wall, First Order, Martyrs of England (c. 1530-1598; 1620-1679)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-john-jones-and-john-wall>

Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular, First Spouses Canonized Together

<http://saintsresource.com/louis-and-zelig-martin/>

July 13

Bl. Angeline of Marsciano, Foundress, Third Order Regular (1357-July 14, 1435)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angeline_of_Marsciano

July 14

St. Francisco Solano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Missionary (March 10, 1549-July 14, 1610)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Solanus

July 15

Bl. Bernard of Baden, Third Order Secular (c. 1428-July 15, 1458)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-bernard-of-baden.html>

- July 15
St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, Cardinal, Minister General Order Friars Minor, Doctor of the Church (1221-July 15, 1274)
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Bonaventure>
- July 16
Canonization of St. Francis on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX
<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/bull-of-canonization-of-st-francis-of-assisi-mira-circa-nos-7860>
St. Marie-Madeleine Postel, Foundress, Third Order Regular (November 28, 1756-July 16, 1846)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/postel-marie-madeleine-st>
- July 18
St. Camillus de Lellis, Capuchin Novitiate before founding Ministers to the Sick (May 25, 1550-July 14, 1614)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-camillus-de-lellis/>
- July 19
Bl. Peter of Cresci, Priest, Third Order Secular (d. July 19, 1323)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-cresci.html>
- July 19
Bl. Herman Stepien, First Order Conventual, Polish Martyr (October 21, 1910-July 19, 1943)
<https://carmelitesph.org/memorial-of-blessed-karol-herman-stepien/>
- July 21
St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Doctor of the Church (July 22, 1559-July 22, 1619)
<http://catholicism.org/saint-lawrence-of-brindisi-apostolic-doctor.html>
- July 23
St. Kunigunde of Poland, Abbess, Poor Clare Sisters (March 5, 1224-July 24, 1292)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunigunde_of_Poland
- July 24
Bl. Louise of Savoy, Poor Clare Nun (December 28, 1461-July 25, 1503)
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Bl. Antonio Lucci, Bishop, OFM Conventual (August 2, 1682-July 25, 1752)
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St. Bartolomea Capitanio, Third Order Secular before founding another order (January 13, 1807-July 26, 1833)
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- July 27
Bl. Archangelo of Calatafimi, Religious, Friars Minor of the Observance (d. 1460)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/archangelo-calatafimi-bl>
Bl. Maria Maddalena Martinengo, Capuchin Poor Clare nun (October 5, 1687-July 27, 1737)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-magdalene-martinengo.html>
Bl. Nevolo of Faenza, Third Order Secular (13th Cent.-July 27, 1280)
<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-nevolo-of-faenza/>
- July 28
St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception, Franciscan Clarist Congregation (August 19, 1910-July 28, 1946)
http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/2008/ns_lit_doc_20081012_alfonsa_en.html
Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska, Capuchin Poor Clares, Martyr (d. 1941)
<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/maria-teresa-kowalska/>

July 30

Bl. Bertrand de la Tour, Cardinal, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1262-1332)

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0730-23.htm>

Bl. Solanus Casey, Priest, OFM Capuchin (November 25, 1870-July 31, 1957)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solanus_Casey

August 2

Feast of St. Mary of the Angels of the Portiuncula - Plenary indulgence available

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12286a.htm>

August 4

Bl. Frédéric Janssoone, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 19, 1838-August 4, 1916)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frédéric_Janssoone

St. John Vianney, Priest, Third Order Secular (May 8, 1786-August 4, 1859)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08326c.htm>

August 6

Bl. Maria Francesca Rubatto, Founder, Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto
(February 14, 1844-August 6, 1904)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Maria_Rubatto

August 7

Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian, Priests, OFM Capuchin, Martyrs (d. 1638)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-agathangel-and-cassian.html>

August 8

Holy Father St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers and Cordbearer
(August 8, 1170-August 6, 1221)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05106a.htm>

August 9

Bl. John of La Verna, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (1259-August 9, 1322)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-la-verna.html>

St Francis of Assisi-Consumed by the Gospel

At the heart of the Christian faith is the Incarnation. I don't know what I would do without Jesus; abstract talk about God always left me empty and longing for more. I need God made flesh, human like us, walking our streets, even in our shoes, teaching us the way of God. I also need people to teach me again the reality of the Incarnation in their own lives and history. We all need that.

Francis is perhaps our greatest teacher. He has been called both "the first Christian" and "the last Christian." My struggle is just that; his life presents the gospel in such stark contrast to the world, to the church, and to my own life. Sometimes his example convinces me that it is indeed possible, with God's abundant grace, to live the gospel life. Other times his star shines so bright that it only exposes my own darkness. Francis converts me over and over to Jesus, but he also makes me sometimes wonder if I really am or want to be a Christian. He both points to the great possibility and shows me how much further I have to go to see what he saw.

...

I must warn you that if you begin to follow after him as he dances through the world, he will certainly turn your life upside down, as he has mine. It is a journey that I still find myself very much in the middle of.

I don't know where the journey will end, either for me or for you. But I do know that I want to commend him to you. Once you have looked into his eyes, you will never see the same way again.

Jim Wallis, Joyce Hollyday, *Cloud of Witnesses: Revised Edition*, Maryknoll, NY; Orbis Books, 1991, pp. 7-8.

Evening Sermon on Saint Francis

Preached at Paris, October 4, 1255

...He can always say to us; *Learn from me for I am humble of heart*, Learn, that is, to have true, not counterfeit, humility as hypocrites cunningly humble themselves. Of these, Sirach says: *There is one who humbles himself wickedly and inwardly he is full of deceit*, (Sir 19:23) and St. Paul writes to the Colossians: *Let no man disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind*. (Col 2:18) He is not encouraging us to that kind of humility, but to the humility of heart on which Saint Bernard writes: The truly humble man wants to be considered despicable rather than proclaimed a humble man.”ⁱ

Saint Francis possessed this humility supremely. He loved and sought it, from the origin of his religious life until his death. For this he left the world, ordered that he be dragged naked through a city, ministered to lepers, told his own sins while preaching and even commanded others to pour scorn on him. We ought to learn this virtue especially from him.

That we may desire it let us look at the fruits which make it so attractive, the manner in which it is acquired and the means by which it is maintained.

The fruits of humility are manifold. First, it calms the anger of God, while moving him to suspend judgment due to guilt. This is well exemplified in the Book of

Kings where the Lord says to Elijah: *Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days*. (1 Kg 21:29) What extraordinary power humility has, that it can contain the hand of God! The psalmist tells us: *The Lord is the keeper of little ones: I was humbled and he delivered me*, (Ps 116A:6) and Saint James says: *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble*. He protects and guards them, as the Psalmist says: *The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit, a contrite and humbled heart, O God, you will not despise*, (Ps 51:19)

The second fruit of humility is that it finds grace. Just as anyone looking for water must dig down into the earth, so anyone longing to find *living water* (Jn 4:10) has to dig a well of humility inside himself. As Sirach says: *The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself and you will find grace before God*. (Sir 3:20 Jas 4:6) ...

To be continued next Month

Regis J Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap., J. A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv., William J. Short, O.F.M., editors, *The Founder: Volume II of Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, New York: New City Press, 2000, pp.519-520.

ⁱ Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermon 16:10, *On the Song of Songs I*, The Works of Bernard of Clairvaux, vol II translated by Lilian Walsh and introduced by M. Corneille Halfants (Spencer, MA: Cistercian Publications, 1971), 121.