

August Gathering Agenda

Opening Prayers - page 35 in the Ritual book

Business

- Welcome new visitors, birthday and profession acknowledgements
- Rite of Admission – Bette & Marilyn
- Angelus format

Formation

- Saint in focus—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Bette O'Connor
- Effective Dialogue/Active Listening – Michael Oliver

Liturgy of the Hours - Evening Prayer

Food and Fellowship

Closing Prayers - Page 36 in the Ritual book

Minister: Michael Oliver
Vice-Minister: John DiBenedetto
Formation Director: Carmencita Fiesta
Secretary: Susan Jamison
Treasurer: Portia Fiesta
Counselors: Tom McGrath, Michaelle Sylla and Aurea Roland
Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether

visited us and had this to say afterwards in an email,
“You have a wonderful fraternity. They are so engaged, want to participate, and be with each other. I can tell they get along very well. You have true fraternity and community.

Greg's Ongoing Formation topic on Mary Magdalene was excellent and extremely well researched.

Tom, of course, is a whiz at technology and had everything working perfectly. Your guest minister for the day, Michaelle, did a great job of keeping us on track.

Finally, I really appreciate the warm reception and hospitality, and the gift as I said wasn't necessary, but it was quite generous and I am quite grateful for the gesture.” Gary's comments were unsolicited. We are very blessed!



Spiritual Assistant's Message August, 2024

In this, the last of my articles on our Franciscan sisters and brothers of other Christian churches around the world, we will take a look at ecumenical and dispersed associations of Franciscan inspiration but necessarily connected with a mainstream Christian tradition.

The Free Episcopal Church of the USA oversees the Order of Servant Franciscans, whose members are into what they call “the process of becoming” ministers of Christ's message of reconciliation and love as demonstrated in the lives of Francis and Clare.

The Mission Episcopate of Saints Francis and Clare, a self-governing ecclesial authority, oversees the Order of Lesser Sisters and Brothers, open to all male and female Christians, married, single, or partnered, and clergy or lay.

Minister's Message Michael Oliver

Peace and All Good!

We know that our fraternity is warm and welcoming, and that we enjoy each other's company. Sometimes though, it is nice to hear validation. Gary Burton, our region minister, The Angelus

The Australian Ecumenical Franciscan Order, an independent community, lives an everyday life as seculars. They may follow any Christian tradition and be male or female, married, single, or partnered, clergy, or lay.

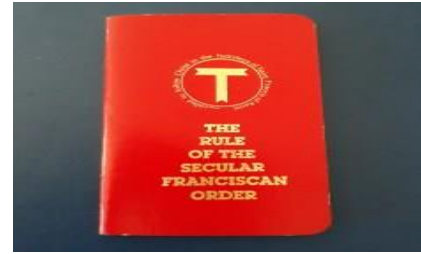
The Companions of Jesus is a Franciscan community of reconciliation founded in the United Kingdom in 2004.

The United States Order of Ecumenical Franciscans adopted its Rule on November 22, 1983. This Rule impacted the Order of Lesser Sisters and Brothers described above, making them more dispersed in their community.

The Ecumenical Franciscan Society of Eastern Europe has a mixed membership of Lutherans, Catholics, Orthodox, Anglican and free Protestants.

Next month, we'll begin a series on how St. Francis transformed both the Church and sainthood for today.

Peace and All Good,
Mike



Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

CHAPTER TWO: THE WAY OF LIFE

Article 12. Witnessing to the good yet to come and obligated to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.

Thoughts to ponder

It's not easy to set oneself free to love everyone. The beautiful are lovable, as are the kind and the clean.

Can we... do we... love the unattractive, the mean, and the dirty, too? Could I have loved Hitler or Osama bin Laden?

In this highly polarized world in which divisiveness runs rampant, let us continue to remind ourselves of this Article of the Rule and do our best to love everyone.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Tom McGrath—August 12th
Lilian Soriano – August 12th
Delia Sylla – August 17th
Aurea Roland—August 24th



Apostolates Corner
Prayer Ministry

No August Professions

Our monthly Mass for our Living and Deceased Fraternity Members will be celebrated on August 18th, at Our Lady of Grace Church at 11 AM.

A friendly Secular Franciscan reminder!

If health or a special family obligation hinders you from attending our gathering, please contact our Vice Minister, John Di Benedetto, and let him know.

301-873-7883



Lead:

Bette O’Connor

410-499-5504 oconnorbette46@gmail.com

Bette can be contacted by phone, text or email. If desired, your prayer requests will be shared with the entire Fraternity. We will be happy to feature prayer requests in the Angelus.

In addition, your prayer needs can be shared in the daily Zoom prayer gathering at 3 p.m. Finally, feel free to submit names to the group each month for prayer support.

Saint of the Day for August – Saint Clare of Assisi

(July 16, 1194 – August 11, 1253)



Saint Clare of Assisi’s Story

One of the more sugary movies made about Francis of Assisi pictures Clare as a golden-haired beauty floating through sun-drenched fields, a sort of one-woman counterpart to the new Franciscan Order.

The beginning of her religious life was indeed movie material. Having refused to marry at 15, Clare was moved by the dynamic preaching of Francis. He became her lifelong friend and spiritual guide.

At 18, Clare escaped from her father's home one night, was met on the road by friars carrying torches, and in the poor little chapel called the Portiuncula received a rough woolen habit, exchanged her jeweled belt for a common rope with knots in it, and sacrificed her long tresses to Francis' scissors. He placed her in a Benedictine convent, which her father and uncles immediately stormed in rage. Clare clung to the altar of the church, threw aside her veil to show her cropped hair, and remained adamant.

Sixteen days later her sister Agnes joined her. Others came. They lived a simple life of great poverty, austerity, and complete seclusion from the world, according to a Rule which Francis gave them as a Second Order. At age 21, Francis obliged Clare under obedience to accept the office of abbess, one she exercised until her death.

St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity 2024 Picnic Under The Arches

We are invited to attend the St. Joseph Cupertino annual picnic on Sunday, September 15th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the courtyard of the Shrine of St. Anthony, under the arches, at 12290 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD.

Mass will be celebrated at Noon.

This is the same day of our regular fraternity gathering so we will discuss our attendance at the August gathering.

O glorious Saint Clare!

God has given you the power of working miracles continually, and the favor of answering the prayers of those who invoke your assistance in misfortune, anxiety, and distress; we beseech you, obtain for us from Jesus, through Mary, His Blessed Mother, what we beg of you so fervently and hopefully, if it be for the greater honor and glory of God and for the good of our souls.

O Blessed Saint Clare, your life shines like a beacon and cast its light down the ages of the Church to guide the way of Christ.

Look with compassion on the poor and humble who call on you for help. As you bow before your Eucharistic Lord in Heaven, speak to Him of my afflicted body and my broken spirit. Ask Him to heal me and to wash away my sins in His precious Blood.

Great Servant of Christ, remember the needs of my family and all those I pray for. Defend us from everything that would threaten our Holy Catholic faith.

Hear the cry of the poor and make it a song of intercession, rising from your poor heart to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, our Healer, our Savior, and our Lord. Amen.