

The Angelus

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
October 20, 2024



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

October Gathering Agenda

Opening Prayers - page 35 in the Ritual book

Business

- Welcome and thanks to this month's Guest Minister – John Di Benedetto
- Welcome new visitors, birthday and profession acknowledgements

Formation

- Fraternity! – Rita Colleran
- Saint in focus—St. Anthony of Padua – John Di Benedetto
- Chapter of Mats review – Michael Oliver (time permitting)

Food and Fellowship

Liturgy of the Hours - Evening Prayer

Closing Prayers - Page 36 in the Ritual book

Guest Minister's Message John Di Benedetto

May St. Francis and St. Clare Bless our Fraternity always!

This Month of October holds so many special moments in my life. First of all, that we are celebrating the lives of St Francis and St. Clare which have been for the most part all of my life when my grandmother passed on her traditions to me. She always said to pray to them, and you will never be disappointed. Little did she know that one day I would be a Secular Franciscan. My life has been truly blessed more in these past few years than I could ever imagine.

Second, we celebrate the feast of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, although she was not a Franciscan many of us have prayed to her also to help us bring ourselves closer to Our Dear Lord and the Blessed Mother what greater joy could we have as to be blessed with a saint like this.

Third, we celebrate Our Lady of the Rosary, and most of the Fraternity knows that I was blessed many years ago with two rosaries that were given to me by the Bernardine Sisters at St. Jude. If some of you have not seen these rosaries, I will be more than willing to show them to you.

Fourth, my deep devotion to St. Jude, who is the patron of hopeless causes. Many a visit to St. Jude over the past 68 years of my life have given my 72 years that have shown me that nothing is impossible for not only St. Jude to help with, but most of all what Our Dear Lord and Blessed Mother have done for me in my life.

In closing may we always remember what Our St. Francis wanted all of us to do and that is to spread the gospel to everyone and give our LOVE to everyone that we will be meeting in our lifetime.

May St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity always be a part of our lives!

Peace and All Good!

Spiritual Assistant's Message September 2024

May God's merciful love be with you all!

Continuing with our series based on Jon M. Sweeney's commentary, "How One Saint's Ancient Insights are Transforming Today's Church", we see how Francis gave us a whole new outlook on sainthood in this process. Francis made for us a turning point in how we view sainthood. He was an "icon of sanctity" even though we know that to him it was just merely a pathway to conversion. Francis was not too certain of his motives and frequently questioned them., but this is one of the many reasons why we love him so much. The saintly things he so simply did in his time were trials in Gospel living. Francis's life was a demonstration that Christianity is much more than institutions, sacraments, and catechisms. It was also practices and techniques: a sort of on-the-job-training where he may as well have said to his brother friars, "Come with me and , I'll show you how to do it."

Besides sainthood, Francis transformed the Church in six different ways: all refocusing Christianity on the Gospels and resurrecting Christian practices. They all depict a man ahead of his time. One of them depict a man ahead of our own time. As a result, we once again see similarities between St. Francis and Pope Francis.

Francis was so popular some 800 years ago because what he said back then was for all people: not just for the Church and people of faith. We see this as true, too, of Pope Francis of today. It has already been seen that fallen-away Catholics, as well as atheist, Buddhists are among those now listening intently to our pontiff, because he is speaking in words they understand, practicing a Catholicism that they see as meaningful and very applicable to the world.

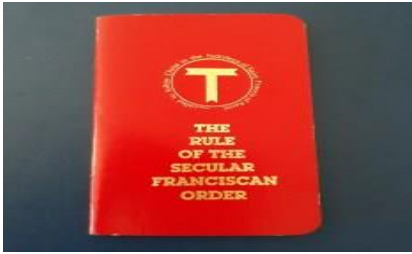
Francis's six different ways of transforming the Church can also be called six different aspects of his spiritual vision. One builds upon the next and all are a revolutionary and life-changing approach to a life of true faith. As Jon Sweeney puts it, it shows how being Catholic can also be beautifully catholic. The six ways are:

FRIENDSHIP

Friendship is of primary importance for Francis. The traditional qualities of a saint usually include compassion, courage, and intellect. Francis certainly had these virtues to an extraordinary degree. But his journey both started and ended not with these attributes, but a unique sort of friendship: a gift comprising almost entirely of his charisma as well as a true solidarity. Francis crossed all lines of clear and distinct status, religion, and gender of his culture and time. His unimpeachable motives and character saved him: he would have been put to death for such radical solidarity.

Even though we may already be familiar with Francis's six ways of his transformation of the Church, it still helps us to learn more of how we can direct our motives as Franciscans. Next month, we'll continue with looking into his six ways.

Peace, Mike



Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

CHAPTER TWO: THE WAY OF LIFE

Article 14. Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself," let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

Thoughts to ponder

Ask yourself - How fraternal is your world? Your family? Your workplace? What do you do to make it more fraternal? Can you see a difference since you started? Do you feel called to a spirit of service? In what ways?



A friendly Secular Franciscan reminder!

If health or a special family obligation hinders you from attending our picnic gathering at the Shrine of St. Anthony, ***please contact our Vice Minister, John Di Benedetto, and let him know.***

301-873-7883



Happy Birthday!

John Di Benedetto – October 17th
Frank Barletta – October 21st
Ingrid Roberts – October 21st
Carmencita Fiesta – October 25th
Irma Jean-Baptiste – October 31st

October Professions

Hazel Cummings – October 28th
Brenda Dawson – October 28th
Portia Fiesta – October 28th
Peggy Nicholson – October 30th

Our monthly Mass for our Living and Deceased Fraternity Members will be celebrated on October 20th, at Our Lady of Grace Church at 11 AM.



Apostolates Corner

Prayer Ministry 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.



Reminder: Please bring any new or gently used winter coats to either our October or November gatherings to donate to Fr. Michael's coat drive.

Also, remember him in your prayers as he suffered a fainting incident recently.


Notable Franciscan Events in October

Transitus
Commemorating the Death of
St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi was called by "Sister Death"
on the evening of October 3, 1226.


Join the Franciscan Friars, Franciscan Sisters and Secular Franciscans in this
annual commemoration of the passage of St. Francis from this life to eternity!

Join us as we keep this vigil in reading, song, and prayer!



October 3, 2024
7:00 p.m.
The Shrine of
St. Anthony

12290 Folly Quarter Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-531-2800
ShrineofStAnthony.org



The Great Novena Prayer

Holy St. Francis, through your kind
intercession

I seek holiness above all things.
I seek the faith, hope and love that
allowed you to joyfully embrace
our Lord Jesus Christ to such a point that
you became like Him, even
with the marks of the Stigmata.

Pray for me, Holy Francis, that I may
endure any suffering with the love of
Jesus and the example you gave to all.
Help me to be generous with the poor
with all that I have, and to remember to
be always grateful for all the blessings I
have received. Hear my Novena Prayer
and intercede for me for the following
needs (mention your intentions here)
I ask all this, through Christ Our Lord,
Amen.

After reciting the Great Novena Prayer,
please say one *Our Father*,
one *Hail Mary* and
one *Glory be to the Father*.

ST. ANTHONY'S GUILD

The Franciscan Friars

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