



October 2024

## ***THE CALL***

### **St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order**

*From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

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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, October 13, 2024**

- Collect food for a local food bank. Please pick one with a collection site that you can get to and deliver food there.
- Opening Prayer – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Admission of Kully Dooley to Candidacy*
- *Impressions from Chapter of Mats*
- Fellowship
- Business Meeting
- *Franciscan Crown Rosary in place of Evening Prayer*
- Closing Prayers – Ritual, p. 36.

#### **Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info**

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

Dial by your location:

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

#### **Minster's Notes**

Last month I asked for prayers for the Chapter of Mats. Thank you. Many members of our fraternity spent the weekend together, with about 100 new friends. I will let them tell you about it at the fraternity meeting this month.

This month we also welcome Kully Dooley as a candidate. Kully had an extended inquiry period while we gathered paperwork and he explored the possibility of moving back to Florida. Now he is ready to pursue candidacy.

Someone from the Tuesday night Bible study I co-facilitate gave me a sign at the end of our sessions last spring. It says “If there is a highway to Hell and a staircase to Heaven, it should tell you something about anticipated traffic.”

The sign is in the kitchen near the table. I see it on a regular basis and so it feeds my prayer. As I struggle to get up from a kitchen chair, I realize that if there is a staircase to heaven, I am in trouble. I am not alone. I can still make it up and down stairs with effort. I rely on other fraternity members to carry stuff. As we age, our bodies lose

flexibility. Several of us have added canes.

I, for one, invite people climbing stairs behind me to go around me. I wonder if that holds true for a staircase to heaven. Am I willing to be passed if my destination is heaven? Maybe I should be more willing to be last. I envision lots of elderly struggling up one step at a time with a tight grip on the banister and each other. It makes sense to me that I need to leave things for others to carry. When I meet St. Peter, my hands need to be empty. What do you need to let go of so your hands will be empty in death?

Since I wrote this, the church celebrated the feast of St Therese of the Little Flower. In the weekday homily that morning, Father talked about Therese wanting to be a great saint but choosing the Little Way and allowing Jesus to reach down and pull her up. Climbing the

### **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.
- Ann and Bill Wester for an uneventful move and good Franciscan fellowship in her new Fraternity.
- Ann Wester's friend Bob who is on life support.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.
- Virginia Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS.
- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, and for all those suffering from depression.
- For friends of Liz, Mark who is undergoing chemo for stage 4 melanoma and Dan who has Parkinson's Disease.
- 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

staircase to heaven is a group effort not just several of us patiently helping each other but Jesus pulling from above.

This week I also received an invitation to join Immaculata Fraternity in Fredericksburg to attend their Advent Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 14; 9 AM Mass, 10:30-noon talk by Fr. Stan Fortuna, CFR., 12:00 light lunch followed by a brief concert-(Fr. Stan was a jazz musician before his life took a right turn) departure by 2 pm. Spouses and interested others welcome. Though not asked for directly (yet) I am sure a count is needed to plan lunch. Please check your calendars. Let us see if we can arrange transportation for those who want to go.

Pax et Bonum,

Andrea

their belief in God.

- Prisoners, the sick, poor, hungry, lonely, the elderly and their caregivers, homeless, unemployed, the dying and those with no one to pray for them.
- For the work of the Order of Malta in Bethlehem in this time of strife and war.
- The union of all Christians and the salvation of all.
- The health, protection and guidance of Pope Francis, all bishops and all priests.
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

### **Necrology**

William F East – October 1989  
Leo J Hannon – October 1990  
Maria Alicia Heusser – October 1994  
Elmer V Dean – October 1994  
Gerhard Lubbers – October 1994  
Maude G Pierce – October 1996  
Johanna Hannon – October 1996  
Dorothy Renkes – October 1998  
R. Marie Hopkins – October 7, 2013

### **Birthdays of the Month**

Ralph Palasek (6th)      Bernadette Lozano (23rd)

## Professions

10/11/1998 - Anna Claire Smith (Mary)

10/14/ 2001 - April Garcia (Francis)

## Secretary's Notes

While we celebrate Kully's entrance into candidacy we are also saying goodbye to Ann Wester, OFS. Ann was minister when Andrea, Sita and I entered formation and has long supported our Fraternity as treasurer and infirmarian. Both she and Bill will be greatly missed. May she find much joy in North Carolina and few hurricanes.

October is dedicated to the Rosary of Our Lady. We will be celebrating the Franciscan version at our meeting on Sunday in lieu of the Evening Prayer. The history of the Franciscan Crown

Rosary can be found on page 6. Instructions and reflections can be found on page 7. The flyer for the Advent Day of Reflection is on Page 4 and Fr. Jerome's reflection on the Easter of St. Francis is below.

Recently I heard a presentation on the Rosary by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR and he suggested a practice during private recitation of the Rosary that I have found helpful and that is to add a word or phrase after the Name of Jesus in the Hail Mary that refers to something about Christ in the mystery. Just use one word or phrase while praying a mystery. For instance, I add 'Jesus, found in His Father's House' when praying the Fifth Joyful Mystery, the *Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple*. It is another way of keeping focused on the mystery being prayed.

Peace and Good, Randy

## The Easter of Francis

At the monastery where I live, our church has two panels pairing the life of St Francis with the life of Christ. On one wall, Jesus sends his apostles out two by two; across the altar, Francis sends his brothers out, two by two. On the opposite wall, Jesus appears to Thomas and the rest of the disciples after the Resurrection; across that altar, Francis embraces Sister Death.

This display encodes for me the traditional phrase "The Easter of Francis"—the description of his death as a passing to new life. There is something about the way that Francis embraced Sister Death that points us to life eternal.

I am struck by the radical embrace of poverty, his desire to go out of this life with the same nothing he came into it with, entwined with the embrace of his brothers, as the minister general "loans" him back his tunic and insists that he wear it under obedience. As I write these words, I think of how most of us, entering the world with no possessions, yet "possess" the embrace of a loving mother and usually a father and a larger family still.

What do you remember and keep in your heart

of the telling of the Easter of Francis? Review the passages from Celano or Bonaventure, or maybe you keep this so clear in your heart that you have a line or phrase memorized.

What does this aspect of the Easter of Francis tell you of death? What does it tell you of the new life we share in Christ Jesus?

This year, what strikes me most is the way that the brothers "embraced" me while keeping safe distance during my recent bout with covid. I wasn't even horribly sick, a very light fever, but they solicitously ensured that I would have meals and everything I might need. No fear, just fraternal love.

The embrace of brothers and sisters at the national chapter is just as loving but in a different way, more joyful, perhaps easier overall. But the love we see in the Passion of Christ and the Easter of Francis encourages us to take a different view of Death, a view that we can only see with eyes of faith.

Jerome, ofm  
National Spiritual Assistant  
OFS Animator, OFM Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe [ofs.assistant@friars.us](mailto:ofs.assistant@friars.us)



**Immaculata Fraternity  
Advent Day of Recollection**

**Saturday, December 14  
St. Jude Catholic Church  
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

**Mass 9:00 am  
Program 10:15 am  
Light Lunch 12 noon  
followed by  
Concert, Raffle, and Holiday Cheer  
Departure 2:00 pm**

**Rev. Stan Fortuna, CFR**

**free will offering  
\$20 suggested**

**Secular Franciscans and their guests  
welcome to attend, contact  
[info@secularfranciscan.org](mailto:info@secularfranciscan.org)**



**Fr Stan is a founding member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, A professional musician and poet, he plans to celebrate Mass and give an Advent themed talk, followed by a brief concert. A "free will offering" will go directly to Fr Stan's nonprofit, which supports his Order's work around the world with the poorest of the poor.**

**Saints of the Month**

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-01-2023.pdf>

October 1

Bl. Nicolas of Forca Palena, Priest, Third Order Regular (September 10, 1349-October 1, 1449)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-nicholas-of-forca.html>

October 3

Commemoration of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi

**October 4**

**Solemnity of our Seraphic Father Saint Francis**

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/solemnity-of-saint-francis.html>

October 5

Bl. Felicia Meda, Order of Poor Clares (1378-September 30, 1444)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-felicia-meda.html>

October 6

St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, Third Order Secular (March 25, 1715-October 7, 1791)

<https://www.mysticsofthechurch.com/2018/06/st-mary-frances-of-five-wounds-of-jesus.html>

October 10

St. Daniel and Companions, Angelo, Domnus, Hugolinus, Leo, Nicholas, and Samuel  
Priests, Order of Friars Minor, Martyrs of Morocco (d. October 10, 1227)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-daniel-and-companions.html>

Bl. Marie-Angela Truszkowska, Founder, Third Order Regular (May 16, 1825-October 10, 1899)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela\\_Truszkowska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Truszkowska)

October 11

St. John XXIII, Pope, Third Order Secular (November 25, 1881-June 3, 1963)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope\\_John\\_XXIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_XXIII)

October 12

St. Seraphin of Montegrano, Religious, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (1540-October 12, 1604)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-seraphin-of-montegrano.html>

October 13

Bl. Honorat Kozminski, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (October 16, 1829-December 16, 1916)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/1216-23.htm>

October 17

Bl. Balthazar of Chiavari, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (1420-October 17, 1492)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-balthassar-of-chiavari.html>

October 18

Bl. James of Strepur, Archbishop, Order of Friars Minor, Conv. (c. 1340-October 1409)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-james-of-strepur.html>

October 19

St. Peter of Alcántara, Priest, Franciscan Stricter Observance (1499-October 18, 1562)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11770c.htm>

October 23

St. John Capistrano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (June 24, 1386-October 23, 1456)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08452a.htm>

Bl. Josephine Leroux, Poor Clare, martyr (January 23, 1747-October 23, 1794)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-josephine-leroux.html>

October 25

Bl. Maria Jesus Ferragut, virgin and companions, Martyrs of Valencia [Maria Veronica Masiá,  
Maria Felicity Masiá Ferragut, Isabel Claduch Rovira, Milagros Ortells Gimeno], Poor  
Clares, d. 1936

<https://capuchinos.org/ingles1/blog/profile/b-maria-jesus-masia-ferragut-y-companeras-martires/>

October 26

Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventuals (d. October 26, 1711)

<http://hagiomajor.blogspot.com/2012/10/october-26-blessed-bonaventure-of.html>

October 29

Bl. Thomas of Florence, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (1370-October 31, 1447)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-thomas-of-florence.html>

October 30

Anniversary of the Dedication in Consecrated Churches of the Seraphic Order

Bl. Angelo of Acri, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin  
(October 19, 1669-October 30, 1739)  
<https://saintscatholic.blogspot.com/2014/03/blessed-angelus-of-acri.html>

October 31

Bl. Christophe of Romagne, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1172-October 31, 1272)  
<http://ecole-franciscaine-de-paris.fr/christophe-de-romagne-bienheureux/>

November 3

Bl. Helen Enselmini, Poor Clare Nun (1208-November 4, 1242)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-helen-enselmini.html>

November 4

St. Charles Borromeo, Secular Franciscan Cardinal, Protector of the Friars Minor  
(October 2, 1538-November 3, 1584)  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Charles-Borromeo>

Bl. Teresa Manganiello, Third Order Secular (January 1, 1849-November 4, 1876)  
<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-teresa-manganiello/>

November 5

Commemoration of All the Deceased of the Seraphic Order  
<https://faustynka.livejournal.com/12261.html>

November 6

Bls. Alfonso Lòpez, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs of the Civil War in Spain  
(Died 1934, 1936-1939)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs\\_of\\_the\\_Spanish\\_Civil\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_the_Spanish_Civil_War)

Bl. Marguerite de Lorraine, Poor Clare Nun (1463-November 2, 1521)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09655a.htm>

November 7

St. Didacus of Alcalá, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Observant (c. 1400-November 12, 1463)  
<https://www.sdcatholic.org/diocese/bishops/saintdidacus.aspx>

Bl. Raynier of Arezzo, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1304)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-raynier-of-arezzo.html>

November 8

Bl. John Duns Scotus, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Doctor of the Church  
(c. 1266-November 1308)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-duns-scotus.html>

November 9

Bl. Gabriel Ferretti, Priest, First Order (1385-November 12, 1456)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gabriel-ferretti.html>

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### **ORIGIN OF THE FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY**

Do not fear, Mary, for you have favor with God.  
Behold, you will conceive and bear a son and shall  
name him Jesus. Luke 1:30-31

From the very beginning, Christians continued the  
Jewish tradition of praying and singing the 150

psalms as part of their sacred routine of daily prayer.

By the Middle Ages, however, a largely illiterate population could neither appreciate the historical events to which the psalms referred, nor could they memorize and recite the psalms in Latin.

Therefore, in the early 13th century a scriptural meditation was thoughtfully adapted for those who desired to participate in the sanctification of daily life through a cycle of prayer meant to complement the Divine Office chanted by the more educated monks and nuns.

What became known as the rosary was the recitation of the Aves and Paters (the Our Father and Hail Mary) that were counted off on a ring of beads numbering 150. The mysteries of the New Testament were meditated upon within this “mirror” of the 150 Old Testament psalms. Hence,

Salvation History itself permeated this simple method of prayer. The repetition allowed for rhythmic breathing, leading the participant to an inner realm of peace and calm. The rosary eventually became a favored personal devotion among many people, including the learned laity and religious.

The name rosary was derived from the rose, a flower having a great depth of symbolism. One of the spiritual titles given to the Virgin Mary, Mystical Rose, referred to her womb as the developing flower of Christ the Savior. Moreover, the patient unfolding of the five concentric petals of the rose was likened to our own patient mastery of the five senses, the integration of all the creative and life-communicating energies of a human person. Yet, the blossoming of the spiritual life could only be achieved and maintained by the defensive “thorn” of daily perseverance

### **Franciscan Crown Rosary – Instructions and Reflections**

Instructions How to say the Crown Rosary A Journey of Faith: The Seven Joys of Mary  
{Father Thomas Bourque, T.O.R.; Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Province, USA - Loretto, PA.}

1. The Franciscan Crown consists of seven decades of Hail Mary's, each preceded by an Our Father and followed by a Glory Be.
2. The Crown recalls the seven joys of Mary and how she responded to the grace of God in her life.
3. It begins with the Sign of the Cross, which is then followed by seven decades, each consisting of one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be.
4. At the end of the seven decades are two additional Hail Mary's, bringing the total number of Hail Mary's to 72. This completes the 72 years of Mary's Joy, and according to Tradition, equals the number of years the Virgin Mary lived on earth.
5. The Crown is concluded by praying one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope. The Sign of the Cross concludes the Franciscan Crown Rosary.

[Taken from [http://www.franciscanfriarstor.com/stfrancis/stf\\_crown\\_rosary.htm](http://www.franciscanfriarstor.com/stfrancis/stf_crown_rosary.htm)]

#### **FIRST JOY - The Annunciation - The Gift of Fortitude [Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-36]**

*Reflection:* At baptism, we are called by name to give flesh to Christian values and beliefs. In responding to the gift of baptism, how have we dealt with becoming a disciple of the Lord? What is our relationship to God, Church and others? How do we respond to the invitation to build up the Body of Christ? Why can living according to Christian values be a lonely and frightening thing? Name people and events in your life which have helped you live out your faith commitment?

## **SECOND JOY - The Visitation - The Gift of Counsel [Luke 1:39-56]**

*Reflection:* Mary's response to God was the powerful prayer of the Magnificat, the joyous acknowledgement of God's goodness within her. What is our response to God? What are three positive qualities with which the Lord has blessed you? Whom do you turn to for counsel and friendship in your life?

## **THIRD JOY- The Birth of the Lord and the Adoration of the Magi – The Gift of Fear Of The Lord [Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-7]**

*Reflection:* In reflecting upon the role of Mary as a woman of faith, we learn that she accepted the will of the Father and all that went with that responsibility. How do you respond to the will of God in your life? Imagine the emotional turmoil Mary experienced at the time of Jesus' birth. She turned to God for strength. Where do you turn during those periods of emotional turmoil in your life?

## **FOURTH JOY - The Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin - The Gift of Wisdom [Luke 2:22-24]**

*Reflection:* As Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to the elders of the Temple, they once again displayed their love and faithfulness towards God. As you were presented by your parents or you presented yourself to the Lord in the Sacrament of Baptism, your parents/Godparents also displayed their love and faithfulness towards God. How do you express your love and faithfulness towards God? How do you share wisdom with others?

## **FIFTH JOY - The Finding of the Christ Child in the Temple – The Gift of Understanding [Luke 2:41-52]**

*Reflection:* This event was probably a frustrating and stressful experience for both Mary and Joseph. The happiness of finding Jesus was lost when Mary and Joseph could not comprehend his explanation. When do you most often lose sight of Christ within your life? How do you seek to understand the wisdom of God and the will of God? What are the five qualities you appreciate about your parents and their love for you?

## **SIXTH JOY - The Resurrection and the Meeting of Mother and Son – The Gift of Piety and Love [Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-12]**

*Reflection:* The ordeal of seeing her only Son die a criminal's death was undoubtedly a traumatic experience for Mary. She drew strength from the Father's love and realized that Jesus would conquer death through the power of God. From where do you draw your strength? Does the gift of the resurrection truly give you a reason to hope and a reason to live?

## **SEVENTH JOY - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and Her Coronation as Queen of Heaven and Earth and Protectress and Advocate of the Franciscan Family the Gift Of Knowledge [John 1:17-27; Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6, 21:1-6]**

*Reflection:* As Mary experienced the call from God, we also need a deepening conviction and eagerness to hear God's call in our lives and respond to the call. It is important to trust God enough to allow ourselves to respond freely and generously as Mary did. Are you as eager to hear God's call as Mary was? How are the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, serenity) growing and affecting your relationship with God and others?

[If those who use the seven-decade rosary make a slight change in the mysteries they recall in each of the decades, they can gain the same indulgences which have been granted for the so-called Dominican Rosary of fifteen decades. All one has to do is make the first five of the seven mysteries coincide with the five Joyful Mysteries, and then add the last two Glorious Mysteries for the two additional decades; © 1970 Franciscan Herald Press 1434 West 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609]  
[Compiled by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017. Shortened by Randy Bender, OFS, October 2024]