

## January 2025



### Our Gathering

**Thursday, January 9, 2025**

#### Schedule

- ❖ Candidates meet with their instructor
- ❖ Mass (in the church)
- ❖ Lunch & Fellowship
- ❖ Business Matters
- ❖ Extraction of Saints
- ❖ On-going formation – The Implications of Being Professed as a Secular Franciscan by Kate Meire
- ❖ Evening Prayer



**Nela Wintjen  
Kate Meire  
Pepper Tully**

You have volunteered to bring dessert to our **January** gathering.  
**THANK YOU!!**

A GENTLE REMINDER...

*IF WORK, HEALTH REASONS OR SIGNIFICANT FAMILY OBLIGATIONS HINDER YOU FROM ATTENDING THE GATHERING, PLEASE CONTACT OUR VICE MINISTER, PEPPER TULLY  
973-809-2344  
PEPPER32738@GMAIL.COM*

#### 2025 Theme

**The Omnipresence of the Franciscan Way of Life**

### Minister's Message

#### Imperfect Children of a Perfect God

We are imperfect, yet fully made in God's image. And God desires us to be well, to love ourselves enough to be well. Francis of Assisi knew this. As a veteran and prisoner of war who likely suffered from PTSD, Francis understood that he was broken and worthy of repair. He was medieval to his core, yet his problems were not dissimilar to what we face today. But once he stripped himself of all things worldly, Francis understood that no wound was beyond God's ability to heal.

In a letter Francis wrote to a friar, his salutation should be on the lips of everyone who loves those suffering in mind or spirit: "May God smile on you and be merciful to you. May God turn his regard toward you and give you peace."

My prayer for you is a very blessed, healthy, prosperous, joyous and peaceful New Year. We are all potential Saints in the making. Let's get to work!

Kathleen



#### EVENING PRAYER

Thursday after Epiphany

*If you are using your phone, please use the Divine Office app. (Printed copies will be available)*

1 Vol. Pages 830 & 229

4 Vol. Pages 886 & 608

Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old

1 Vol. pg. 1541, Number 81

4 Vol. pg. 546

Presider: Fr. Cocco

Antiphonarian: Pat DuBois

Reader: Loretta Hanley

# Formation, Formation, FORMATION!!!

By Rhona Prescott, Formation Director



With Christmas giving at our heels, let us go deeper and consider a Franciscan “take” on what we truly emulate.

Let us consider the Tau, the one on a cord with three knots, the one we received at either entrance to Candidacy or at Profession. Let us ponder the promise of Franciscan Poverty; the poverty we aim for while living “in the world”.

Let us also reread the Beatitudes, as written in the Gospel of Matthew, the actual words of Jesus.

Let us then read a part of Pope John XXIII’s work, applying it to our personal lives.

When you make those New Year Resolutions, go “Franciscan” and watch your spiritual world renew!

## **The Beatitudes - KJV**

Matthew 5:3-12

**Blessed** are the poor in spirit:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed** are they that mourn:  
for they shall be comforted.

**Blessed** are the meek:  
for they shall inherit the earth.

**Blessed** are they which do hunger &  
thirst after righteousness:  
for they shall be filled.

**Blessed** are the merciful:  
for they shall obtain mercy.

**Blessed** are the pure in heart:  
for they shall see God.

**Blessed** are the peacemakers:  
for they shall be called the children of God.

**Blessed** are they which are persecuted  
for righteousness' sake:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

An excerpt from:

## **MATER ET MAGISTRA**

**ENCYCLICAL OF POPE JOHN XXIII  
ON CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS  
MAY 15, 1961**

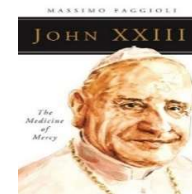
### Greater Efficiency in Temporal Affairs

257. To search for spiritual perfection and eternal salvation in the conduct of human affairs and institutions is not to rob these of the power to achieve their immediate, specific ends, but to enhance this power. The words of our divine Master are true for all time: "Seek ye therefore first the kingdom of God and his justice; and all these things shall be added unto you." (56) The man who is "light in the Lord" (57) and who walks as a "child of the light" (58) has a sure grasp of the fundamental demands of justice in all life's difficulties and complexities, obscured though they may be by so much individual, national and racial selfishness. Animated, too, by the charity of Christ, he finds it impossible not to love his fellow men. He makes his own their needs, their sufferings and their joys. There is a sureness of touch in all his activity in every field. It is energetic, generous and considerate. For "charity is patient, is kind; charity envieth not, dealeth not perversely, is not puffed up, is not ambitious, seeketh not her own, is not provoked to anger, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth with the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." (59)

To read the full encyclical follow this link:

[https://www.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_j-xxiii\\_enc\\_15051961\\_mater.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_15051961_mater.html)

## Book Study Coming This Month!



### **John XXIII The Medicine of Mercy**

By Massimo Faggioli

Evenings at 6:30pm

Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>

7 weeks

It's not too late to join!!

You don't have to attend all of the days!

Contact Elena at

301-471-7487

elenacspitzer@gmail.com

# Giving for January

## Shepherd's Office



A beacon to the unhoused, hungry, needy and lonely. Especially during these cold months! Many come to the Shepherd's Office in Georgetown in hopes of getting some of their needs met. As temperatures drop their needs become dire. We in our fraternity have so much to offer them. Our prayers are primary!! We too can make contributions to the supply of things given out. Below are some very much needed items. Bring what you can to our gathering next week.

- Thick white tube socks**
- Thermal underwear**
- Gloves**
- Hats**
- Blankets**
- \$10.00 gift cards to fast food restaurants**



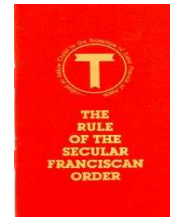
Moving forward, we will list birthday and profession anniversary dates that fall **between** our gatherings.

### Upcoming BIRTHDAYS

Fr. Rigo                      1/25

### Upcoming PROFESSIONS

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Vincent Bertone | 2/11/1993 |
| Marty Rendon    | 2/11/2017 |



## The Rule – What we have promised

### Chapter Two - *The Way of Life*

17. In their family they should cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life, striving to make of it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ. By living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives in particular should bear witness in the world to the love of Christ for his Church. They should joyfully accompany their children on their human and spiritual journey by providing a simple and open Christian education and being attentive to the vocation of each child.

**Reflection** – Remember Father Peyton's famous statement? "The family that prays together stays together." This is the secret of success for family ministry. Praying together goes beyond just saying prayers together like meal prayers or the rosary or anything else. It is a common opening of one's hearts to God. It is a common striving toward union with God and togetherness with one another. It is taking the risk of sharing with another one's own miseries and joys. It is laying bare before God our brokenness with each other and achieving healing and reconciliation in his presence. It is discovering together the will of the Father through the Word of God and the promptings of the Spirit.

*An excerpt from  
Called to Proclaim Christ, Short Reflections on the SFO Rule  
by Benet A. Fonck, OFM*



### Our Fraternity Library

The library is open during each fraternity gathering.  
Where: Top floor of the parish hall.  
Time: 9:30am – 3pm

**We pray for all our fraternal sisters and brothers and for the special intentions of:**

Janice McCarthy, ofs  
Bonnie Coté, ofs  
Nicole Meringolo, ofs  
Carolyn Protin, ofs  
Fr. William Cocco, ofs  
Kathleen Murphy, ofs  
Judy Bennett, ofs  
Fran Butler, ofs  
Mary Moran, ofs  
Maureen Ciano, ofs  
Tom Carter, ofs  
Ron & Bev Stoner, ofs



**We pray for our deceased relatives and friends and especially:**

John Zell, ofs  
Mary Lou Zell, ofs  
Deacon Buddy Bianco, ofs  
Deacon Bob Leonzio  
Barbara Petrisko, ofs  
Bill Farrell, ofs  
Bill Walker, ofs  
Dee Matthews, ofs  
Laraine Hoffman, ofs  
Florence Bianco, ofs  
Celine Mallonee, ofs  
Alicia Bourne, ofs  
Fr. Ronald Pecci, ofm  
Lucy Deiacco, ofs  
Maury Robb, ofs  
Diane Barbacano, ofs  
Dick McCarthy, ofs  
Linda Sciallo, ofs

## From the National Fraternity

### **Our National Priorities Revisited**

By Diane Menditto, OFS  
National Vice Minister



At our National Chapter in October 2022, the National Fraternity Council decided that the priorities for the following three years would be Vocations, Communications, and Relationships. As we enter 2025, we have a year-long opportunity to assess our progress and plan for the future.

You can find the remainder of this excellent article at the below link to the national website. There is even a place where you can listen to it.

**You are highly encouraged to read it as it pertains to all those in the Secular Franciscan Order.**

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/2025/01/01/our-national-priorities-revisited/>



Looking Ahead...

### **Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates**

March 29, 2025 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Franciscan Monastery  
of the Holy Land in America  
1400 NE Quincy St.  
Washington, DC

Br. Michael Meza, OFM Cap will be the presenter.

**All are invited,**  
*especially inquirers and candidates.*

\$50. Lunch is included.

More information will come!

## Future Fraternity Gatherings

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

Please make note!

### 2025

February 13<sup>th</sup>

March 13<sup>th</sup>

April 10<sup>th</sup>

May 8<sup>th</sup>

June 12<sup>th</sup> (St. Jude's)

July 10<sup>th</sup> (St. Jude's)

August 14<sup>th</sup> (St. Jude's)

September 11<sup>th</sup> (St. Jude's)

October 9<sup>th</sup>

November 13<sup>th</sup>

December 11<sup>th</sup>

### 2026

January 8<sup>th</sup>



## Pennies & Nickels



*Thank you...*

for your continued support of our Common Fund.

If you are ever unable to attend the gathering,

send your donation check,  
payable to St. Clare Fraternity,

to our treasurer:

**Andrea Lipchak, OFS**

**41 Tiffany Drive**

**Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971**

## Council Members

**Minister:** Kathleen Murphy 301-535-7011

**Vice Minister:** Pepper Tully 973-809-2344

**Secretary:** Mary Moran 302-644-1448

**Treasurer:** Andrea Lipchak 302-644-4434

**Formation Director:** Rhona Prescott 302-864-7280

**Councilor:** Tom Carter 302-344-1414

## Council Corner

from Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

In addition to what is in the newsletter, the following are a couple topics your council was focused on this month:

The following are the ongoing formation topics for January to July of 2025

January: The implications of being professed as a Secular Franciscan; and the tradition of the drawing of saints and prayer partners.

February: Servant leadership as a Franciscan defined.

March: For Lent, confession based on the Franciscan examination of conscience.

April: The San Damiano Cross

May: Mary and the holy family with St. Joseph

June: Reviewing each other's ceremony of Confirmation and how it affected us.

July: An American Saint (the speaker will choose either Kateri Tekakwitha, Catherine Drexel, Elizabeth Ann Seton, or a personal option)

Also, still looking for suggestions for a local charity to replace Franciscan Missions. Contact Kathleen!

## Laughing With St. Sarah

(Patron saint of laughter)

