

February 2025



Our Gathering

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Schedule

- ❖ Candidates meet with their instructor
- ❖ Mass (in the church)
- ❖ Lunch & Fellowship
- ❖ Business Matters
- ❖ Extraction of Saints
- ❖ On-going formation – Servant Leadership by Kathleen Murphy
- ❖ Evening Prayer



**Nela Wintjen
Kate Meire
Pepper Tully**

You have volunteered to bring dessert to our **February** 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

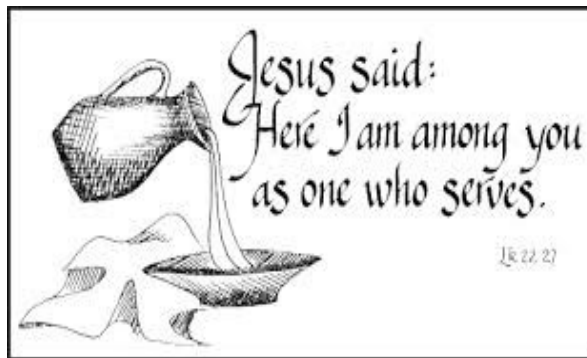
The Omnipresence of the Franciscan Way of Life

Minister's Message

Servant leadership is all about putting the needs of others first and empowering them to achieve their goals. As a leader, your success is measured not by your accomplishments, but by the success of those you serve.

This is what we Franciscans are all about. Let us all share on how we may help to serve others.

Kathleen,
Minister



EVENING PRAYER

Thursday of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time

If you are using your phone, please use the *Divine Office* app.

(Printed copies will be available)

1 Vol. Page 754

4 Vol. Page 779 (Vol. 3)

Hymn: For the Fruits of His Creation

1 Vol. pg. 1521, Number 37

4 Vol. pg. 779

Presider: Fr. Cocco

Antiphonarian: Pat DuBois

Reader: Loretta Hanley

Formation, Formation, FORMATION!!!

By Rhona Prescott, Formation Director

Who Are We, Anyway?

Our motto for this year is: "The Omnipresence of the Franciscan Way of Life". That is a hint, but really, who are we Seculars? We are found just about everywhere. We are auto mechanics, Priests, professors, authors, CEO's, Deacons, poets, postal workers, CIA and FBI operatives, parents, grandparents, speechwriters, wine stewards, patient advocates, musicians, public speakers, news columnists, attorneys, chefs, military, nurses, physicians and on and on. In short, we are "out there". We are leaders in the world. We are power brokers. We are movers and shakers! Yet, in a very different way than most. We walk to the tune of a different drummer. And our drummer is Jesus Christ, personified in Francis of Assisi. We are leaders through serving others... all others. And we have followers; lots of followers. How is that? It has been said that we do not lead by offering words. What then? We lead by being servants. Oxymoron? Hardly. Our attitude toward power is one of being a servant. Being elected or appointed to an office does give power. Nothing bad about that...unless we yearn for that power by dominating others. Our Franciscan spirit is one of service to others. Power is used to achieve a common good. In Fraternity life and that outside our Fraternity, that means assisting each other to be faithful to the Commandments, Beatitudes and our SFO Rule. The common good is our goal. People respond to that. And they follow. Matthew wrote: "You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve..." And it works. It really does. We Franciscans know the secret. Let us lead then. Let us be omnipresent. Let us have so many followers that we change the world.



Giving for February

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

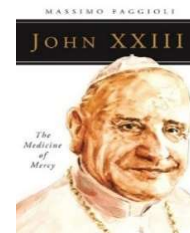
Gloves

Hats

Blankets

\$10.00 gift cards to fast food restaurants

Book Study In Progress!



John XXIII The Medicine of Mercy

By Massimo Faggioli

Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm

Feb. 19th & 26th

Come and join us! You don't need the book or the study guide. Come for the discussion and fellowship.

Below is the Zoom link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84115468165?pwd=eWlmpPC5aTI4r1FMTbbuUFZCKG0mf1.1>



| <u>February BIRTHDAYS</u> | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Natalie Blakely | 2/11 |
| Mary-Anna Harvie | 2/18 |
| Jeri Pierce | 2/20 |
| <u>March BIRTHDAYS</u> | |
| Kathleen Murphy | 3/11 |
| Pat Dubois | 3/25 |
| Nicole Meringolo | 3/29 |

| <u>February PROFESSIONS</u> | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Vincent Bertone | 2/11/1993 |
| Marty Rendon | 2/11/2017 |
| <u>March PROFESSIONS</u> | |
| None | |



Of the
 canonical establishment of
 St. Clare Fraternity
 (March 1, 2008)

The Rule – What we have promised

Chapter Two - *The Way of Life*

18. Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which “bear the imprint of the Most High,” and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.

Reflection – Ecology (the relationship of creatures with themselves, their environment, and their God) is a fourth expression of the Franciscan apostolate (#18). Francis saw all creation – the sun and moon, the weather and water, fire and earth, forgiving people and death itself – as symbols of the union between God and his people. Hence, all creation has a sacred quality and enjoy a oneness with people in the history of salvation. Following the example of Francis, the Secular Franciscans express a profound respect for all creation and use it for its intended God given purpose. Furthermore, they ennoble nature and technology and build a community conscience toward using natural resources. This ministry toward creation will stem the selfish tide of abuse and waste and exploitation in this world.

*From Gospel to Life
 The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with Commentary*

Council Corner

(from Thursday, February 6th)

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

- * There has been some thought about a committee (perhaps an ad hoc committee formed by several members) to focus on member engagement beyond fraternity meetings.
- * New program/initiative for us in the Lewes area that is in need of help along with donations: **What is Your Voice, Inc.** Information will be circulated and a guest speaker from the organization will come and speak to our Fraternity. TBA
- * We need on-going formation presenters for May, June & July. Please, contact Rhona!

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
Kathleen Murphy, ofs
Judy Bennett, ofs
Fran Butler, ofs
Pat DuBois, ofs
Rhona Prescott, 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 Deiaco, ofs
Maury Robb, ofs
Diane Barbacano, ofs
Dick McCarthy, ofs
Linda Sciallo, ofs



Looking Ahead...

Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates

All Are Invited

March 29, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

Br. Michael Meza, OFM-Cap will guide and teach us about this deeply spiritual step that you are about to make in your relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. What does your commitment mean? How does Franciscan spirituality and charism effect your everyday life? What is the Franciscan way of Life? What is the "radical internal change" that the Rule speaks about? Come to intensify your understanding and reflect on this direction for your life.

Deadline to register is MARCH 21, 2025

Register online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/March29Reflection/>

You can pay electronically online or at the door. If paying at the door by check please make it payable to: St. Margaret of Cortona OFS Region. For more information or assistance with registration contact: Rita Colleran OFS, Regional Formation Director rlcolleran10@gmail.com 703-310-9958



Our Fraternity Library

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

Future Fraternity Gatherings

2nd Thursday of each month

Please make note!

2025

March 13th

April 10th

May 8th

June 12th (St. Jude's)

July 10th (St. Jude's)

August 14th (St. Jude's)

September 11th (St. Jude's)

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th

2026

January 8th

February 12th

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

Laughing With St. Sarah

(Patron saint of laughter)



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



St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.