



May 2025

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order

From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel

Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Vice Minister: Janette Martin, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Joseph Kennedy, OFS; Formation Director: Michael Landrigan, OFS; Councilor-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS,

*Sunday – May 11, 2025 – Mother’s Day – **NO FRATERNITY MEETING!***

Meeting – 2:00 pm. - Sunday, May 18, 2024 - Downstairs in Room 6

- We are collecting socks – children’s, women’s, and white socks for men.
- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – A discussion the Franciscan approach to venerating our Blessed Mother, the Queen of Franciscans as illustrated by Article 9 of our OFS Rule.¹
- *Fellowship*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Franciscan Crown Rosary* (see p. 8.)
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqblll4T20rZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

¹ **Article 9:** The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family¹⁵. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently¹⁶.

¹⁵2 *Celano* 198 (2 FA:ED, 2C 198, p. 374).

¹⁶*Lumen Gentium* 67; *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 4.

Minister's Notes

Alleluia! Christ Is risen! Alleluia!

In the month since our last meeting, we have gone from Palm Sunday through the celebration of the Last Supper and the pain of the Crucifixion to the joy of the Resurrection and Easter season. So much tension and emotion are packed into Holy Week – Palm Sunday itself takes us from joy to despair in the reading of the Passion. Then we circle back to joy on Holy Thursday, as Jesus gives us the Eucharist and a lesson that Francis would surely have embraced, the washing of the feet. Back to pain as we share Jesus' lonely, sorrowful vigil in the Garden of Gethsemane and Good Friday's recollection of the Crucifixion, more waiting on Holy Saturday, then finally the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

As I reflect on that very busy rollercoaster of a week, my main feeling is gratitude. Part of me, the exhausted church musician who sang at every service of Holy Week and on Easter Sunday, is grateful that all the rehearsing and then the actual singing went well and that things have calmed down a bit. I am also grateful that being part of the choir singing each day meant that I was able to participate in those services and to try to walk and stand with Jesus and his mother during his ordeal, and then to share in the celebration of Christ's resurrection and promise of our salvation.

Both the euphoria, and the exhaustion, of Holy Week have passed. But a lingering sense of gratitude remains. I am grateful for numerous blessings every day. Among the things I am grateful for, in no particular order, are:

Being a Christian, Catholic, and Secular Franciscan

Having good friends and Franciscan brothers and sisters with whom to share good conversation, good food, good and bad times, and prayer

The gift of music

My cat, my books, my house – despite our call to embrace Lady Poverty, I am grateful for both shelter, comfort with my cat, and

opportunities for intellectual stimulation and recreation.

The list could go on.

I am hardly an original thinker when I say that trying to thank God daily for these and other blessings helps me to reflect on the mysteries of our faith, to try to grow closer to Our Lord and his Mother, and to feel a greater sense of peace than would otherwise be the case in our chaotic world.

What are other things to be grateful for? As we start to think about our upcoming formation lessons, particularly those on our Rule, can we share some of our experiences of gratitude? May God guide us on our path.

Pax et Bonum,
Sita

Prayer Intentions

For...

- Repose of the soul of Pope Francis.
- *That the Cardinals electing our new Holy Father will heed the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*
- Peace between India and Pakistan.
- *Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.*
- A just peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- *Federal Employees negotiating this time of uncertainty.*
- For Angela Gill's husband Anthony who will be undergoing tests for possible pancreatic cancer on May 21st and who needs hernia surgery.
- *Healing for Pat Riggles, OFS for a broken hip*
- April's friend Anne who fell and injured her ribs.
- *Grace Coipuram, OFS*
- Liz Shaeffer's niece, Sarah as she recovers from two abdominal surgeries that left her with colostomy bag for an indeterminate time.
- *Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.*
- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, and for all those suffering from depression.
- *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 grandson of April's friend and another friend with suddenly worsening dementia.
- *For Jessica, daughter of Randy and Andrea's friend James, who attempted suicide recently.*
- For Ginny Kornmeyer's safe and healthy delivery of Randy and Andrea's newest grandchild.
- *The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.*
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for 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.*
- 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 all bishops and priests.
- *For the seven men just ordained transitional deacons for the Arlington Diocese and the twelve to be ordained priests in June.*
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

Professions

none

Birthdays of the Month

Janette Martin (3rd)

Anne-Marie Pastorkovich (16th)

Anna Claire Smith (20th)

Michael Landrigan (22nd)

June

Sita Chakrawarti (7th)

Necrology

Rose McDonough – May 21, 1980

James A Joyce – May 1988

Evelyn Gibney – May 2, 2005

Wilma Harrington – May 5, 2014

Judy Manuel – May 17, 2019

Shane Potts – May 26, 2020

Secretary's Notes

First, our May meeting is on **May 18, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.** since May 11th is Mother's Day.

In this issue of *The Call*, page 2 is Sita's *Minister's Notes*. Following these notes is a brief history of the Rosary and the Franciscan Crown from our national website followed by quotes from Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, OFS on page 4. This is a rehash from last year, but his life is a contemporary witness to a singular courage in following the Gospel. Fr. Jerome offers a reflection on page 5 on us being pilgrims in this world. Page 6 is the Franciscan saints and page 8 has brief instructions for praying the Franciscan Crown Rosary.

Peace and Good,

Randy

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 a 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.

Through the centuries, the Dominican Order has been very influential in the promotion of the rosary, as we know it today. Other religious communities also developed and practiced their own particular form of this prayer.

visiting the Holy Land. Francis was deeply impressed by the Muslim practice of stopping to pray several times a day, and desired to Christianize this pious custom. A Franciscan pope, Sixtus IV (1471-1485), introduced the feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Franciscan rosary, or as it is properly called, The Franciscan Crown, dates to the early part of the 15th century. At that time a young man who found spiritual joy in weaving a crown of wildflowers for a beautiful statue of Mary decided to enter the Franciscan Order. After entering the community, however, he was saddened when he no longer found the time to gather flowers for his personal devotion. One evening, while

feeling tempted to abandon his vocation, he received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mother encouraged the young novice to persevere by reminding him of the joyfulness of the Franciscan spirit. She also instructed him to meditate daily on seven joyful events from her own life as a new form of the rosary. Instead of a crown of flowers, the novice would now weave a crown of prayers. Before long, many other Franciscans began to pray the Crown and soon it spread to the entire Order, becoming officially established in 1422.

In addition to developing this Marian devotion, the Franciscans are credited with adding the final words to the Hail Mary; “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.” In 1263, Saint Bonaventure, Minister General of the Order, encouraged liturgical devotion honoring the mystery of the Visitation. Saint Bonaventure also popularized the daily triple recitation of the Angelus, which it is believed Saint Francis initiated after and the feast of Saint Joseph as husband of Mary. He also issued the first papal pronouncement encouraging the rosary as an invaluable instrument of personal and societal conversion.

[Taken from the Introduction of The Franciscan Crown: The Joyful Mysteries in the lives of the Virgin Mary and Saint Francis of Assisi. Robert Melnick, O.F.M. Conv. & Joseph Wood, O.F.M. Conv. (A beautiful booklet available in most Catholic Book stores, courtesy of The Franciscan Friars of Marytown); Compiled by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017 <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Origin-of-the-Franciscan-Crown-Rosary.pdf> Accessed 5/6/2025.

Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, OFS Quotes (May 21)

“Shouldn’t we become even greater saints than the first Christians?”

"Love as the outer wear is the ‘uniform’ of Jesus’ disciples. His disciples are known by their love.”

“I have to do what I have to do. I just know I have to do it. My family doesn’t understand, my friends criticize me, but I know it is the Word planted in my heart for me at this time.”

“We must go courageously on the way of suffering, whether we begin sooner or later. They may build many beautiful streets today, but they cannot change the way to heaven. This way will always remain rugged and rocky.”

“I would not exchange my small, dirty cell for a king’s palace if I was required to give up even a small part of my faith. Disciples of Jesus must learn to perceive the suffering of their master as unavoidable and to apprehend the religion of Jesus as the religion of the cross.”



Pilgrims

Fr. Arcadius Smolinski, OFM, was a pilgrim. He walked in pilgrimage all over Europe, and at least once from Italy to Jerusalem and back. He wanted to be on the road so that if someone needed a friar, they might find one.

We might know someone who has gone on a pilgrimage. I went on pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome before I started as a postulant with the Friars. I know several people who have been on The Camino, walking across the mountains of Spain toward Compostela.

But even if we are bed-ridden, we are still on pilgrimage—as Christians, we recognize that we are on a journey, an ultimate pilgrimage to return “home” to our Father.

Fr. Arcadius wanted to be accessible to people. Walking, taking life at a slow pace, unafraid of the possibility of being hungry or tired, others might catch up with us or cross our paths.

When we went to Assisi, our guide told us, “Sometime during our time in Assisi, while you are walking around, someone will come up to you and ask you for directions. And even though you have only been here a short while, you will know....” It really did happen to me. And it is true of life that others come up to us and there are times that even though we have no reason to know, and might not even think we are being helpful, we do point a way simply by living in Christ and sharing that light as best as we can.

Everyone I know who walked (even the movie I saw about) The Camino has a story of helping or being helped. There is something about being on the road, walking, at any time, that is so different from being on the highway in a car, at least today.

Pilgrims walk, they slow down, we meet people and get to know them. Sometimes that by itself is helpful and encouraging, for us and for them. Sometimes there is more. What is your pilgrimage?

For your reflection:

- * Who have you met on the pilgrimage of life that encouraged you in your faith?
- * Who have you had the grace to be able to encourage in faith, or at least to offer an invitation to deeper faith or awareness of God’s presence?

Jerome, ofm
National Spiritual Assistant,
OFS Animator,
OFM Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe
ofs.assistant@friars.us

We'd love your feedback! email jeromeofm@gmail.com

Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

May 1

St. Riccardo Pampuri, Confessor, was a tertiary before joining another religious institute
(August 2, 1897-March 1, 1930)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_19891101_pampuri_en.html

Bl. Vivaldo of San Gimignano, Franciscan Friar, Hermit (1260-1320)

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0501-30.htm>

May 3

Bl. Edward Joseph Rosaz, Priest, Founder, Third Order Secular and Regular (February 15, 1830-May 3, 1903)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0504-23.htm>

May 4

Bl. Thomas Bullaker, Bl. Henry Heath, Bl. Arthur Bell, Bl. John Woodcock, and Bl. Charles Meehan, Franciscan Martyrs of England and Wales, First Order

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0504-34.htm>

Bl. Ladislav de Gielniow, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (c. 1440-May 4, 1505)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-ladislav-of-gielniow.html>

Bl. Ceferino Giménez Malla, Third Order Secular, Martyr, First Gypsy to be declared Blessed
(August 26, 1861-August 8, 1936)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceferino_Gim%C3%A9nez_Malla

Bl. Tommaso da Olera, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (1563-May 3, 1631)

<https://anastpaul.com/2020/05/04/saint-of-the-day-4-may-blessed-tommaso-da-olera-ofm-cap-1563-1631/>

May 5

Bl. Benvenuto Mareni, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual (d. May 5, 1269)

<http://catholicsaints.info/blessed-benvenuto-mareni/>

May 6

Bl. Anne-Rose Gattorno Founder, Franciscan Third Order Regular (October 14, 1831-May 6, 1900)

https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20000409_beat-Gattorno_en.html

Bl. Catherine Troiani, Third Order Regular, Missionary (1813-May 6, 1887)

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=7113

May 7

Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, Order of Friars Minor, First Minister Provincial in England (1195-1236)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnellus_of_Pisa

May 8

St. Amato Ronconi, Third Order Secular (c. 1225-May 8, 1292)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amato_Ronconi

May 11

St. Antonio of St. Anne Galvao, Franciscan Priest, Founder of the Conceptionist Sisters
(1739-December 23, 1822)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-antonio-de-santanna-galvao>

May 11

St. Ignatius of Laconi, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (December 10, 1701-May 11, 1781)

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=6982

May 12

St. Leopold Mandic of Castelnovo, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (May 12, 1866-July 30, 1942)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopold_Mandic

May 13

Bl. Gerard of Villamagna, Third Order Secular, Hermit (1174-May 13, 1242)

<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0513-23.htm>

- May 16
St. Margaret of Cortona, Third Order Secular, Patroness of our OFS Region (1247-February 22, 1297)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-margaret-of-cortona>
 St. Theophilus of Corte, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (1676-June 17, 1740)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-theophilus-of-corte.html>
- May 17
 St. Paschal Baylon, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (May 16, 1540-May 17, 1592)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-paschal-of-baylon.html>
- May 18
 St. Felix de Cantalice, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (May 18, 1515-October 18, 1587)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-felix-of-cantalice.html>
- May 19
 St. Crispin of Viterbo, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin November 13, 1668-May 19, 1750)
https://www.capuchin.org/saints_blessed/saint-crispin-of-viterbo/
 St. Marie-Bernard Bütler, Foundress, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Help of Sinners
 (May 28, 1848-May 19, 1924)
https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/2008/ns_lit_doc_20081012_verena_en.html
 Bl. Umiliana de' Cerchi, Third Order Secular (1219-May 19, 1246)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-humiliana-cerchi.html>
 St. Yves of Brittany, Third Order Secular, Patron of Lawyers (October 17, 1253-May 19, 1303)
<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08256b.htm>
- May 20
 St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest, Missionary, Order of Friars Minor (September 8, 1380-May 20, 1444)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-bernardine-of-siena.html>
- May 21
 Bl. Franz Jägerstätter, Third Order Secular, Martyr (May 20, 1907-August 9, 1943)
https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20071026_jagerstatter_en.html
- May 22
 St. Joaquina Vedruna de Mas, Secular Franciscan, Founder, Carmelite Sisters of Charity
 (April 16, 1783-August 28, 1854)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-joachima-de-vedruna.html>
 Bl. John Forest, Priest, Friars Minor Regular Observance (1471-May 22, 1538)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/forest-john-bl>
- May 24
 Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi, 1253
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_of_Saint_Francis_of_Assisi
 Bl. John of Prado, Priest, Martyr, Barefooted Franciscans of the Strict Observance
 (c. 1563-May 24, 1636)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-prado.html>
- May 26
 St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes, Third Order Secular, Hermit (October 31, 1618-May 26, 1645)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-mariana-of-jesus.html>
- May 27
 Bl. Gerard of Lunel, Third Order Secular (1275-1298)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gerard-of-lunel.html>
- May 30
 St. Joan of Arc, Secular Franciscan, "Maid of Orleans" and martyr of France (c. 1412-May 30, 1431)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-joan-of-arc.html>
 St. King Ferdinand III, King of Spain, Third Order Secular (1199/1201-May 30, 1252)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saintfernando.html>

May 31

St. Camilla Battista da Varano, Princess, Poor Clare Abbess (April 9, 1458-May 31, 1524)

<http://poorclarepa.org/st-camilla-batista-varano/>

June 2

St. Felix of Nicosia, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (November 5, 1715-May 31, 1787)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_of_Nicosia

Bl. John Pelingotto, Secular Franciscan Order (1240-Jun 3, 1304)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Pelingotto

June 3

Bl. Andrew of Spello, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 30, 1194-June 3, 1254)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-andrew-of-spello.html>

June 5

Bl. Pacific of Cerano, Priest, First Order Franciscan (1424-June 4, 1482)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-pacific-of-cerano.html>

June 7

Bl. Humiliana Cerchi, Third Order Secular (1219-May 19, 1246)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-humiliana-cerchi.html>

June 8

Bl. Nicholas of Gèsturi, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (August 4, 1882-June 8, 1958)

https://www.capuchin.org/saints_blessed/blessed-nicholas-of-gesturi

Franciscan Crown

(The Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Begin at once with the Our Father and 10 Hail Marys. This comprises a decade.

Pray the mysteries of the Seven Joys of Mary for each decade:

1. The Annunciation (The call of God)
2. The Visitation (Sharing the work of God in our lives in fraternity)
3. The Birth of Jesus (Holiness through Humility)
4. The adoration of the Magi (Prayer),
5. The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Finding our identity in the Father)
6. The Appearance of Jesus to Mary after the Resurrection (Joy)
7. The Assumption and Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven & Earth (Union with God and Glory)

Except, pray the mysteries of the Seven Sorrows of Mary during Lent:

1. The Prophecy of Simeon
2. The Flight to Egypt
3. The Loss of the Child Jesus for three days
4. Mary meets Jesus carrying the cross
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus
6. The Body of Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in the arms of Mary
7. The Body of Jesus is placed in the tomb

Two Hail Marys to complete 72 Aves for the 72 years of Our Lady's life on Earth

One Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be for the intentions of the Pope