



The Little Flower Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order St. Margaret of Cortona Region

August 2025 Newsletter
Next Gathering: August 9, 2025
Burke's Hall at St Francis of Assisi Church

Be the Mirror!!!!

Minister's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My heart is so full! I am writing the minister's message following our Little Flower Fraternity picnic held this past Sunday. It was a truly blessed event hosted by Mark and Cindy Evans. Our sacred time of fellowship, fun, and good food was not dampened by the rain showers. There is so much I could mention, but the highlight was that Helen and John Tumminello were able to attend the event. This was the first time Helen was able to be with the fraternity since prior to her stroke. Helen provided the hugs and many happy tears were shed.

Also, we have a new Inquirer at the Little Flower Fraternity. Welcome and many blessings to Rae!!!! I know the Holy Spirit will guide Rae in her discernment and formation. We are all excited and ready to support Rae on her Franciscan journey.

Finally, we have discerned a theme for the Little Flower Fraternity. Our theme throughout the upcoming year will be **"Be the Mirror You Are Meant to Be."** The mirror is a powerful metaphor in Franciscan spirituality, particularly in the writings of St. Clare of Assisi. The mirror is not used for vanity, but rather as a tool for spiritual reflection and growth. Clare encouraged looking into the "mirror of eternity" to contemplate God and strive for imitation of Christ. This reflection involves gazing upon, reflecting on, and contemplating God, ultimately aiming to adorn oneself with virtues.

In my research on St. Clare this is what I found. Here's how St Clare said to look in a mirror:

First, look at the parameter of this mirror, that is, the poverty of Him who was placed in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. Marvel at how the King of the angels, the Lord of heaven and earth, is laid in a manger.

Then, at the surface of the mirror, dwell on the holy humility, the blessed poverty, the untold labors and burdens which He endured for the redemption of all mankind.

Finally, in the depths of this same mirror, contemplate the ineffable charity which led Him to suffer on the wood of the cross and die.

Please read these words repeatedly and reflect on them. We will study the concept of the spiritual mirror and how we can best reflect Christ in every moment of our lives.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next gathering on August 9th. Please bring school supplies—pens, pencils, notebooks, folders, or anything a student might need. These items will be donated. Also, on September 3rd everyone is invited to Helen and Jonh's home for lunch. Save the date.

Peace and All Good,
Teresa



Welcome to Inquiry, Rae!

The Little Flower Summer Picnic



The Little Flower Fraternity gathered on July 27th for a summer picnic. Thank you to Mark and Cindy Evans for generously hosting such a blessed event!

The Little Flower Fraternity on Retreat



Members of the Little Flower Fraternity traveled to West Virginia to attend a regional retreat at the Priest Field Retreat Center.



Connect and Reflect

HOPE FROM OUR MOTHER: A PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE at the Shrine of St. Anthony

•Tuesday, Aug. 12 OR Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Surrounding the Feast of St. Maximillian Kolbe, we're offering two opportunities to experience this pilgrimage event that centers on his devotion to Mary the Immaculata. Following the morning tour, pilgrims are encouraged to attend daily Mass, eat a bagged lunch in the dining hall and then join in a walk and visit the Lourdes Grotto and Kolbe Shrine on the property. We will talk about the Immaculate Conception and pray the rosary together.

Pilgrimage tours will begin at 10 a.m. in the courtyard of the Shrine, followed by time for Adoration ahead of the 12 p.m. daily Mass in the Shrine chapel. Pilgrims are encouraged to bring a bag lunch to enjoy with other visitors ahead of the afternoon activity. Pilgrims should be aware that portions of the day will include walking to various outdoor landmarks. If inclement weather affects the safety of pilgrims, events will move indoors.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
presents
THREE DAYS OF MIRACLES
A SERIES OF PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITS
Friday, August 22nd —Sunday, August 24th

THIS EVENT IS
FREE AND
OPEN TO ALL

Chaminade Center
Saint Joseph
Catholic Church
915 Liberty Rd.
Eldersburg, Maryland



SACRED CLOTHS OF THE PASSION

LIVE PRESENTATION

EXHIBIT BROWSING

Friday: 6:30 PM
Saturday: 9:30 AM

6:00 - 8:30 PM
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Using faith, history, and science, explore how the shroud image formed and the scientific links among the Shroud of Turin, Sudarium and Tunic

LIFE AFTER LIFE

LIVE PRESENTATION

EXHIBIT BROWSING

Saturday: 1:30 PM

9:30 - 11:30 AM & 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Explore: scientific confirmation of our Soul, consciousness surviving death, and the conversion experience of survivors



EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES

LIVE PRESENTATION

EXHIBIT BROWSING

Following all weekend Masses

Saturday: 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM

A Vatican sponsored exhibit highlighting 1800 years of Eucharistic Miracles created by Blessed Carlo Acutis—as seen on EWTN.

More Information:

 SaintJoseph.cc
 443-920-9191

Presented by:

 Faith Based Communications
 www.FaithBasedComm.com

The Servant of God Magdalen of Rottenburg: Widow/Third Order

A reflection by Linda Herilla, OFS

As one of the Servants of God, Magdalen of Rottenburg was a genuine model of virtue for the women of her time. Though suffering many trials in all stages of her life, she remained true to her devotion to Christ and her denial of the vanities of this world, using the benefits provided by her noble family to give aid and comfort to others by performing multiple works of mercy.

Magdalen obeyed her parent's wishes by marrying a nobleman of her class. She became a mother, then unfortunately suffered the early death of her husband whom she deeply loved. She was known to have offered many prayers and masses for the repose of his soul.

Magdalen set about educating her daughter and an orphaned relative and seeing to settling them in life. With that accomplished God granted her the grace of spending the remaining years of her life among the spouses of Christ.

On Giving a Good Example In Every State of Life

1. Are you worthy of the example given to the world by Servant God Magdalen as she wound through each stage of her life?
2. Magdalen adapted herself to each state of life that occurred during that journey. She didn't wish that she occupied a more prominent state or lived an easier life. She knew without a doubt that God gives us the grace to accomplish His will. Do we have the courage to co-operate with Him and live a holy life?
3. God has chosen for each of us a plan that will lead us down a road to sanctity. All that we have, all that we do, all of the gifts we receive are from Him. He unites himself to each of us so that we can follow Him on that path to eternity. Can we, like Magdalen, submit to His will and be worthy of His love?

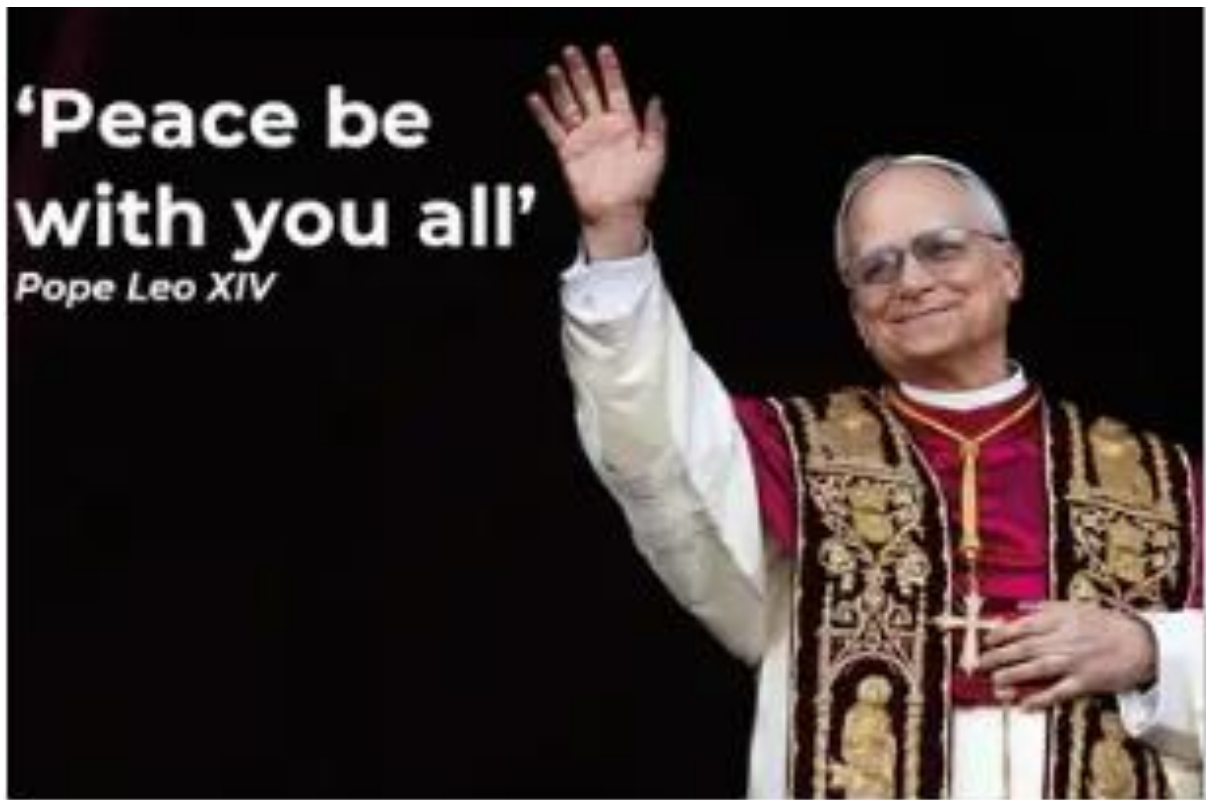
Prayer of the Church

"Let thy grace and piety guide our hearts, we beseech Thee, O Lord, for without Thee we are unable to please Thee. Through Christ our Lord. Amen"



August Prayer Requests

Mary Hebermehl, OFS, Robin, Debra Carroll,
Jim Bundy's wife, Sean Curri, Phil Pucher,
OFS, Dianne Pucher, Jason and Cathy Curri,
Nick Marano, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pasero,
OFS, Helen Tumminello, OFS, John
Tumminello, John and Patricia Moyer, Mary
Lee Carroll, Jaci Curry, OFS and Family



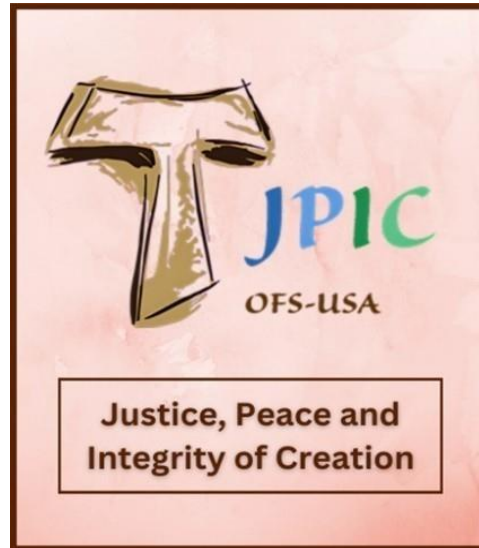
Let us pray for the intentions of the Pope– August 2025
For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

Little Flower Fraternity Celebrations for August

August Professions: Father Bart, Fay Trotta

August Birthdays: Sandra Chabot 8/30, Maureen Korzelius 8/30, Elsie Saylor 8/20, Helen Tumminello 8/26



Schools across the United States will be opening very soon. Teachers are already heading in to prepare for the 2025 to 2026 academic year. Sadly, access to a quality education is a universal problem. Even worse, current UNESCO data indicates that **the number of children without access to any basic education around the world has risen by 6 million since 2021 and now totals 250 million.**

Closer to home Maryland's high school graduation rate is only 85.81% (statistics for the class of 2023). This was the lowest rate of graduation in the last decade. Fewer than half of adults in Maryland are proficient in reading above an 8th grade level. Many adults have no functional ability to read. Acquiring basic math skills is also problematic. Recent statistics show that only 25% off all students in grades 3 to 8 were proficient in core math skills.

As Franciscans we are committed to upholding the dignity of each individual. Franciscans believe that each person is a unique reflection of God's goodness and they deserve to be treated with respect and provided with opportunities for growth, including an education.

What can we do? **The Little Flower Fraternity will be collecting donations of school supplies in August.** Please bring in any supplies that a student might need to our next gathering. What to bring? Notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons—any item that would enhance a student's educational experience. **Thank you!**

Treasurer's Report—

2025.07.31 TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE \$3580.69

EXPENSES:

Infirmarian Mass Cards \$15.00

SFA Hall Rental June 14 \$75.00

Defend Life Charity \$25.00

Spiritual Assistant July, Aug, Sept.

\$150.00 Archive Storage July, Aug, Sept \$118.00

Loan Region Retreat (June Expense) \$270.00

EXPENSES TOTAL: \$653.00

DEPOSITS: 7.15.2025

Deposit #1 \$490.00 7.19.2025

Deposit #2 (Mobile) \$40.00

DEPOSITS TOTAL \$530.00

FINAL JULY BALANCE \$3457.69

**"Gaze upon Him,
consider Him, contemplate Him,
as you desire to imitate Him.
....Totally love Him,
Who gave Himself totally for your love."**



St Clare of Assisi

**....we will pray with great Faith
to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist:
'Save me, O Lord, from every evil -
of soul and body.'**