

July 2025



Our Gathering

Thursday, July 10, 2025



Now gathering at

**St. Jude
152 Tulip Dr.
Lewes**

Schedule

- ❖ Candidates meet with their instructor
- ❖ Mass (in the church at St. Jude)
- ❖ Lunch (in the religious education bldg.)
- ❖ Business Matters
- ❖ On-going formation – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – An American Saint given by Mary Moran & Bev Stoner
- ❖ Evening Prayer

EVENING PRAYER

Thursday in the 14th Week in Ordinary Time

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

1 vol. Pg. 830

4 vol. Pg. 932

Hymn: Now thank we all our God

1 vol. pg. 1519 #32

4 vol. pg. 973

Presider: Pepper Tully

Antiphonarian: Nela Wintjen

Reader: Diane Zell

2025 Theme

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

Minister's Message

Active Participation as Franciscans – Servant Leadership

As Secular Franciscans, we have a duty to our fellow Franciscans and to those we encounter each day. We promise to live the Gospel. That means getting out of your comfort zone and being present every single day. It's as simple as a kind word to a stranger. A helping hand to those in need. A smile. It also means participating in Fraternity activities. Volunteering to do a formation session. It could be you and a fellow Franciscan. A duo so to speak. God has given each and everyone of us special gifts. He selects us and then He gives us what we need. This statement is provided with absolute sincerity. It happened to me. I was elected Minister. I was terrified. However, this Fraternity gave me the support and guidance I needed to move forward. This Fraternity helped me overcome my fears and gave me the strength to stand in front of each and every one of you to be your leader. Have I made mistakes, absolutely. And I still have so much to learn. Today I still stand with you still a little timid, but once I see you, you all have given me the confidence I need to actively participate and to be your servant leader. I end with "do small things with great love".

Kathleen



Formation, Formation, FORMATION!!!

By Rhona Prescott, Formation Director

I have a favorite daily devotional, given me about 15 years back, by a wonderful American missionary. It speaks to me every morning, still. "Jesus Calling" focuses me aright, calms my fear and reminds me that He is in charge, always. With all the frightening things occurring in the middle east and strong rumors that we already have troops on the ground, as well as at least two aircraft carriers moving in, it is difficult to remember that we Franciscans live "from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel". But that we do.

-1 Thessalonians tells us to "pray continually"

-Proverbs 3 assures that "in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

From "Jesus Calling", my devotional, comes the following:

"I am calling you to a life of constant communion with me. Basic training includes learning to live above your circumstances, even while interacting on that cluttered plane of life. You yearn for a simplified lifestyle, so that your communication with Me can be uninterrupted. But I challenge you to relinquish the fantasy of an uncluttered world. Accept each day just as it comes and find Me in the midst of it all. Talk with Me about every aspect of your day, including your feelings. Remember that your ultimate goal is not to control or fix everything around you; it is to keep communing with Me. A successful day is one in which you have stayed in touch with Me, even if many things remain undone at the end of the day. Do not let your to-do list become an idol directing your life. Instead, ask My Spirit to guide you moment by moment. He will keep you close to Me."

Peace be with you. Shalom. Shalom, shalom.



Looking for ideas!

Do you have one or more for on-going formation?

We want to hear from you!!!!

Please send them to Rhona!

rhonakprescott@gmail.com

Giving for July



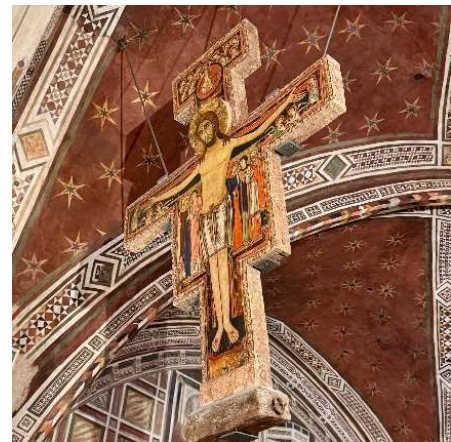
The Shepherd's Office Georgetown, DE

The latest news from The Shepherd's Office is they are in DESPERATE need of the following:

White Socks

White T-shirts (all sizes)

As we continue to support this *blessing for folks in our community*, please bring what you can to our gathering.



The original San Damiano cross hanging in St. Clare basilica, Assisi

The Prayer before the Crucifix

**Most High,
glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me true faith,
certain hope, and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord,
that I may carry out
Your holy and true command.**



To the following folks who
have volunteered to bring
desserts this month,
THANK YOU!!

**Joe O'Neill
Andi Lipchak
Marilyn Butler-Murphy**



July BIRTHDAYS

Judy Bennett	5 th
Ron Stoner	11 th
Francis Butler	18 th

August BIRTHDAYS

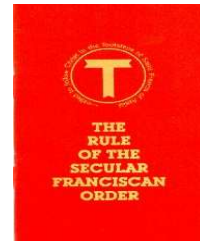
Frank Rega	14 th
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July PROFESSIONS

none

August PROFESSIONS

none



The Rule – What we have promised

Chapter Two - *The Way of Life*

23. Requests for admission to the Secular Franciscan Order must be presented to the local fraternity, whose council decides upon the acceptance of new brothers and sisters.

Admission into the Order is gradually attained through a time of initiation, a period of formation of at least one year, and profession of the rule. The entire community is engaged in this process of growth by its own manner of living. The age for profession and the distinctive Franciscan sign are regulated by the statutes.

Profession by its nature is a permanent commitment.

Members who find themselves in particular difficulties should discuss their problems with the council in fraternal dialogue.

Withdrawal or permanent dismissal from the Order, if necessary, is an act of the fraternity council according to the norm of the constitutions.

Reflection - Paragraph #23 points out the importance of the initial orientation, with elements of both instruction and experience directed toward a life-time commitment in the Order. It also stresses the role of the council in the development of community, especially for new members and for errant members. A number of important implications develop from this paragraph: It is the responsibility of primarily the council (not just the minister or the spiritual assistant) to lead new members to commitment and exercise charity in particular difficulties. The life of the whole fraternity contributes to the growth of the new members and consolidates it. Furthermore, profession is highlighted as a mature and enduring decision to participate as fully as possible in the Church's life and mission according to the manner of Francis.

*From Gospel to Life
The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with commentary
Benet A. Fonck, OFM (coordinator)*



from The Council

Retreat for St Clare and
St. Pope John XXIII fraternities

- To be held at the Poor Clares in Wilmington.
- Conducted by the Nuns and Brother Mike.
- Suggested date is August 30th.
- Beginning around 10:30am until about 2pm

It's a Saturday Field Trip!
Carpools wanted!

More info to come.

Pathway to Profession

The process of becoming a Secular Franciscan involves three stages and lasts for a period of 36 months: Orientation, Inquiry, and Candidacy.

These stages represent a journey of discernment and formation, culminating in a lifelong commitment to live the Gospel according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Look and See phase has ended and now the Orientation process will begin in September for **Marilyn Butler-Murphy, Sandy Garber and Lisa Klein**. We welcome them and will keep them in our prayers.

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

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

Sandy Paulen, ofs
Fran Butler, ofs
Bonnie Côté, ofs
Kathleen Murphy, ofs
Carolyn Protin, ofs
Rhona Prescott, ofs
Judy Bennett, ofs
Nicole Meringolo, ofs
Mary McKeon, ofs
Pat Dubois, ofs
Mimi Farrell, 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
Janice McCarthy, ofs

Looking Ahead



The National Fraternity will celebrate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' creating the

Canticum of the Creatures

Sunday, October 5, 2024

3PM Eastern

[via Zoom](#)

60-75 minutes

Plans include a talk on the writing of the Canticum by Justin Carisio, OFS, and a panel discussion on living the Canticum. Justin is a professional writer with a particular interest in the Early Documents, especially the writings of Francis. He has collaborated with Fr. Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap. Our panelists include the current National Vice Minister Diane Menditto, current International Councilor Mary Frances Charsky, and previous Regional Vice Minister and JPIC councilor for Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity Mike Huck.

The invitation to register for the Zoom event will be sent out about a month beforehand via our regional ministers and regional formation directors. If you would like the registration information to be sent directly to you, please go to groups.google.com and request to be added to "NAFRACentenaryContacts". If you are already on our mailing list, you will get the information automatically.

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

Future Fraternity Gatherings

2nd Thursday of each month

Please make note!

2025

August 14th (St. Jude's)

September 11th (St. Jude's)

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th

2026

January 8th

February 12th

March 12th

April 9th

May 14th

June 11th

July 9th



Pennies & Nickels



Thank you...

for your continued support of our Common Fund.

If you are 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

Laughing With St. Sarah

(Patron saint of laughter)



Brought to us by Judy Bennett