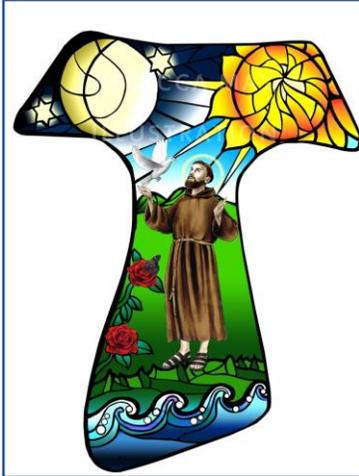


The Little Flower Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order St. Margaret of Cortona Region



September 2025 Newsletter
Next Gathering: September 13, 2025
Burke's Hall at St Francis of Assisi Church

Be the Mirror!!!!

Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Welcome to September! Soon the heat of summer will give way to more moderate temperatures followed by the glorious colors of autumn. Already schools are opening and soon children will return to their classrooms. Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies to Our Lady of Hope School. The supplies will be put to good use by young scholars in our local area. Praise God! And please remember to pray for teachers, school administrators, school support staff, and students as the academic year commences.

Thank you, also, to Father Bart for a fascinating and enlightening presentation at our last fraternity gathering. So often, we venerate Saint Francis and other amazing saints to the extent that we forget that they were also fallible human beings just like us!

Take, for example, the story of Francis and Brother James. James was responsible for the care of some lepers and nursed people with repulsive open wounds. One day, Francis returned home to find that James had allowed a leper into the chapel from the leper hospice. When Francis saw this, he snapped at James and reprimanded him for bringing the leper around the friars' place of prayer. Francis admonished James because he did not want to see lepers with outside the hospital left alone in the chapel where other people came to pray.

This is certainly not the warm and embracing Francis of Assisi we are used to imagining. Yet—this understanding of St Francis is essential. Why are stories like this important to contemplate? These stories ultimately highlight the need for Francis (and all of us) to commit to a daily conversion. We are all sinners! We fail and we fail repeatedly.

What Francis understood—and what we need to understand today—is that our personal failings are not the end of our story. Francis is known as the "Mirror of Perfection" imitating Jesus Christ. Francis recognized when he sinned it signaled the need for conversion. He did penance for his sins and tried as hard as he could to do better. St. Francis put his hands in the Hands of Christ. Through prayer and penance Christ guided him. Gradually he became a beautiful reflection of Christ's light and love.

Like Francis we should always be sorry for our sins, do penance, and endeavor not to sin again. When we do stumble, we need to return to Christ, seek forgiveness, and move forward. Always trust that our daily conversion will bring us closer to a perfect reflection of the divine grace of God.

Brothers and sisters, please continue to pray unceasingly in the praise of our God, pray for ourselves to better reflect Christ in all things, and to pray for each other.

Finally, I invite all of you for a special time of prayer and socialization at the home of John and Hellen Tumminello on August 3rd at noon. Lunch (pizza, salad, and beverages) will be provided. Contribute a desert if you can. I know how much Helen loves and misses her fraternity!

Have blessed month and I hope to see you all at our next fraternity gathering on September 13th.

Peace and All Good, Teresa

Be the Mirror! Reflect Christ at all times!



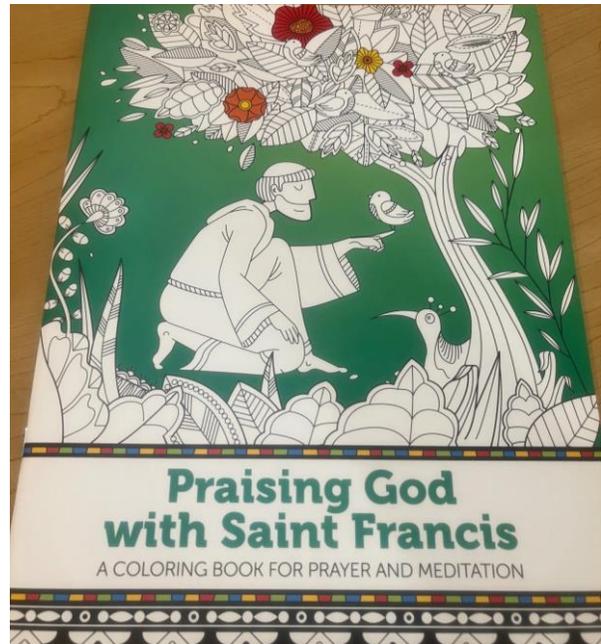
A Prayerful Response to the Shooting in Minneapolis, Minnesota

By Phillip Pucher, OFS

We pray for the children who died, and those who survived, the families, the shooter, the parishioners, and ourselves as we try to make sense of Your permissive will, Father in the horrible evil that happened at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August. Grant us acceptance, forgiveness of our sins that allow such evil to exist, and healing of our hearts and souls. We ask this of You, forgiving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.



The Little Flower Raffle! Take a chance for just one dollar. Win an adult coloring book!



Little Flower Fraternity Council Members

Please contact a council member if you will be missing a gathering or for any concerns.

Minister: Teresa Knauff 410-300-4452

Treasurer: Al Gigel 443-514-0488

Secretary: Joan Kane 410-925-7910

Formation Director: Phillip Pucher 410-242-2924

Councilor: Bonnie Ng 410-303-8013

Councilor: Michael Huether 443242-6645

Counselor: Mark Evans 410-391-7241

Spiritual Assistant: Father Bart Karwacki 919-519-5018

Picnic Invitation: Save the Date!



The Joseph Cupertino Fraternity's annual picnic will be on Sunday, September 21st, 2025, starting at 1 PM at the Shrine of St. Anthony, Ellicott City, MD. The Little Flower Fraternity is invited to join the celebration! Holy Mass will be at the Shrine at noon and is optional. Please bring a dish to share!



Connect and Reflect

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

HOPE IN CREATION: A PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE

Hope in Creation: A Pilgrimage
Shrine of St Anthony in Ellicott City
Saturday, October 4, 2025
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Our Year of Hope Franciscan Pilgrimage events will culminate with a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi on his Feast Day. Recognizing the 800th Anniversary of the Canticum of Creatures, the tour will include information about St. Francis's mark on our Shrine and the work of the friars today. Following daily Mass and lunch, pilgrims will be invited to walk the trails behind the Shrine of St. Anthony to experience the joy of and find hope in God's creation so loved by St. Francis and all Franciscans.

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.

This is a wonderful chance for the LFF to celebrate both the Feast Day of St Francis and the Year of the Jubilee!!! Lunch afterwards will be at Fox & Barrel Farm Café.

Connect and Reflect



Canonization Celebration

- Carlo Acutis
- Pier Giorgio Frassati



Saturday, September 6, 2025

Saint Leo's Church
Baltimore's Little Italy

Vigil Mass 5 pm

Eucharistic Adoration 6:30-7:30 pm

Food! Fun! Music! 7:30 pm
featuring 'Plating Grace' food truck

CARLO ACUTIS (1991 – 2006) was a British-born Italian known for his devotion to the Eucharist; he died from leukemia at age 15. Carlos is nicknamed "a saint in sneakers" and was a tech-savvy teen who will become the first millennial saint.

PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI (1901 – 1925) was an Italian Catholic activist. He has been a significant global patron for youth, young adults, athletes, and "ordinary people."

These two young men will be canonized in St. Peter's Square in Rome, Italy, on September 7, 2025, in a ceremony presided over by Pope Leo XIV.

Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage

September 27, 2025

10 AM Opening Procession to 4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON (at the Seaton Shrine)

Saturday, September 13th

A DAY FOR REFLECTION AND DISCOVERY

 Mass is available at 11:30 a.m with the Vincentian family and celebrated by Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M.

 Tune in to a special livestream presentation on why St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's canonization was important 50 years ago and still is today by Kathleen Cummings, author of *A Saint of Our Own: How the Quest for a Holy Hero Helped Catholics Become American*.

 On-site visitors can also enjoy special presentations throughout the museum and historic homes. This day is perfect for quiet inspiration and a deeper connection to Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's story.

Sunday, September 14th

A DAY OF JOY

11:00 AM | 50th Anniversary Mass with Archbishop William E. Lori (*To Be Aired on EWTN at 7:00 PM EST*)

12:30 PM–5:00 PM | Celebration Across the Campus

The Festival Stage

- Live Music and Performances
 - [John Paul Von Arx](#)
 - [Dana Catherine](#)
 - Seton Hall University Choir & Band
 - Gospel Choir from the first African American Catholic Church in the US (St. Francis Xavier)
 - Lab Band of Mount St. Mary's University
 - Mother Seton School Chorus
 - [Damascus Worship Band](#)

The Saints Stage

- Dramatic Monologues —“Saints On Their Way” will come to life in these performances that feature American saints in this year's [Back from the Dead](#) faith drama
- Author Talks by [Father Dan Mode](#) and [Kevin Wells](#)

Saint Yi Sŭnghun



Maria Mercaldo, OFS was born in Korea and was one of eight children in her family. Maria's parents left her a legacy—but it was a legacy of prayer and faith, rather than material wealth. Today, Maria carries on the tradition of reflecting God's love and she has passed this legacy to her own children.

Maria and many Korean Catholics credit Yi Sŭnghun for introducing Catholicism into Korea. The seeds of Christianity in Korea actually began in a Buddhist Monastery. Here a group of Confucian scholars met to discuss philosophy. During this meeting, they studied Jesuit writings. Eventually Yi Seung-hun traveled to China where he studied with Jesuit missionaries. Yi Sung-hun became the first known Korean to be baptized, and his baptismal name was Peter.

He returned to Korea with books, crucifixes, and other Catholic artifacts. He then set about evangelizing those around him, including his family.

Early in 1785 the growing group of believers in Seoul moved their gatherings to the home of convert, Kim Beom-u, on the hill where Myeongdong Cathedral now stands. The authorities raided the house, suspecting it of being a gambling den, and were embarrassed on finding it full of nobles. Yi Sŭnghun was among those named in the official report of the incident. In the spring of 1786, as there were no formally ordained priests in Korea, various leading Korean laymen began acting as "temporary clerics" who celebrated mass and administered the sacraments. In 1789, however, the Korean Catholics were informed by the bishop in Beijing, Mgr. Gouvea, that such practices were contrary to Church teachings and that they should cease. There would be no ordained priest in Korea until 1795, when the Chinese priest Zhu Wenmiao arrived, at which time the Church had grown to over 4000 members.

In 1801, the Korean Catholic Church was subject to the first major repression by the government in which more than 300 people were killed. Yi was martyred by beheading in April 1801. Despite the adversity that the church in Korea faced, today there are approximately 6 million Catholics in South Korea, representing about 11% of the total population.

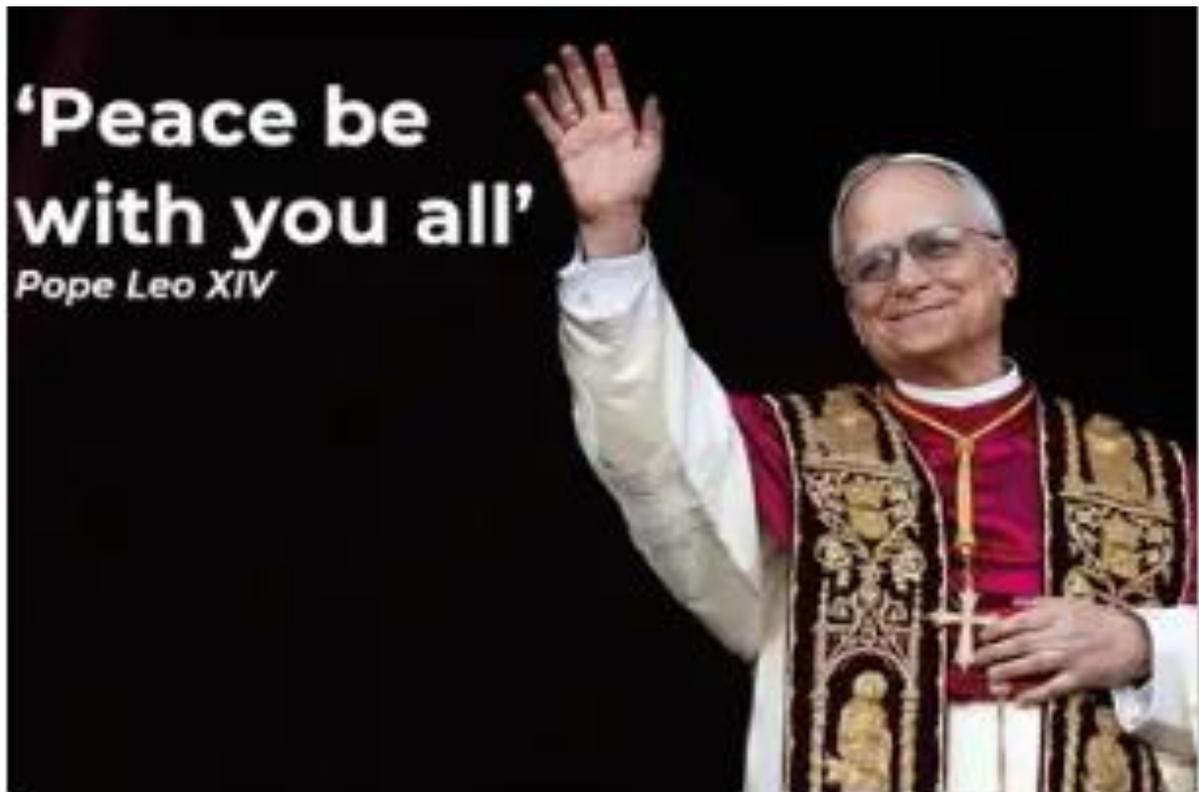
Saint Yi Sŭnghun was canonized by Pope John Paul II on May 6, 1984. Catholic Church in Korea celebrates his feast day along with all Korean Martyrs on September 20.

By Maria Mercaldo and Donna Dellaglio





Mary Hebermehl, OFS, Linda Herilla, OFS, Debbie Carroll, Kate Blair, Lynn Dabrowski, Nicj Marano's Parents, Didaru Islam, Sean Frederick, Barbara Bruno, OFS, Fr. Greg Rapisarda, Cole Johnston, Kathleen Hale, OFS, John O'Hara (RIP), Frank Passaro, OFS, Rob Mullins, Jaci Curry, OFS



**Let us pray for the intentions of the Pope– September 2025
For our relationship with all of creation**

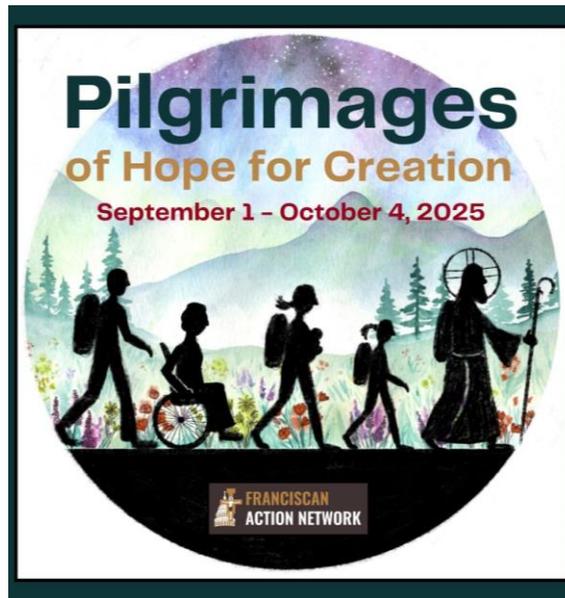
Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Little Flower Fraternity Celebrations for September

September Professions: Sandra Chabot 9/7, Cathy Polkowski 9/7, Michael Huether 9/27

September Birthdays: Barbara Bruno 9/4, Marjorie Foor 9/22, Anne Prosser 9/22

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation



The Franciscan Action Network invites the Little Flower Fraternity to participate in the Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation!

Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation, a nationwide movement to encourage individuals and communities to embark on pilgrimages during the 2025 Jubilee Year, focuses on the sacred relationship between humanity and creation.

In this pivotal year, marking both the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures* and the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' groundbreaking encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the Franciscan Action Network invites Catholics to rediscover the beauty of God's creation through prayer, reflection, and action. Pilgrimages will take place across the U.S. during the **Season of Creation** (September 1 – October 4, 2025), offering opportunities for personal transformation and community-building.

Pilgrimages can be short walks, longer treks, or visits to places of natural or ecological significance. All share the mission to restore our relationship with God, each other, and the Earth, and renew commitment to caring for creation.

Where will your pilgrimage take you?

A reflection from Joan Kane, OFS

How Franciscan are you when it comes to....

Recently I came upon an article I had saved for a while. It concerned difficulties in living in fraternity. It was written by a secular Franciscan (M.Marko), and deals with the need to cope with differences in people and with the unpredictable situations which may present themselves to us. Entitled "Little Weeds," I thought it may be worth a reflection...

As members of the Little Flower Fraternity, we are aware that we are often met with challenges to living the fraternal life. Each of us has a different personality, background, orientation. Each has had a different spiritual journey and has established different insights into the spirituality of St. Francis. None of us are always right in our thinking (though we may think we are - LOL), and likewise we are not always wrong or "less than" right than another in our thinking. Sometimes a person "pushes our buttons" on an "off day," or may have found buttons we didn't realize we had! They don't mean to affect us negatively, and in all likelihood would probably do anything for us! But regardless of the intent, we may want to avoid them at all costs, rather than "bite our upper lip" and try to be patient with them.

But if we are to cope with the experience, let us first recognize the person involved as they are and where they are coming from. As we read in our formation teaching before the Eucharist book, it is sooo important for us to listen to each other and to make every effort to establish rapport before we can even think about addressing a way to resolve personal conflicts and/or situations. Sometimes a person or situation will completely take us off guard. Sometimes ours, and/or their, listening skills are not so good. This only makes rapport and planning seem impossible.

So how do we move forward at those times? The answer is to keep trying to open the lines of communication and be objective about the issues which face us.

Marko wrote a bit about how St. Francis handled a particularly challenging situation. When setting out to see the Pope about establishing his order, Marko wrote that "If Francis had been worried about the condition of his clothing, he might never have had the nerve to visit the Holy Father. If he'd been too concerned with what he was going to say, he might have ended up making it so flowery and affected, no one could understand. As it was, he simply stated his feelings from his heart as best he could." (Even so, it still took the Pope's understanding of his dream about rebuilding the Church, to ultimately turn the tide in Francis' favor!)

In a similar manner, when traveling to see the Sultan, I can see that if Francis had stressed about whether he would be accepted, he might never have made the journey. But moving forward, he even suffered beatings by the soldiers before he was even in the presence of the Sultan!

Francis always did his best. Since he was doing everything for God, it had to be his best....And maybe that's the real secret of coping: doing our best, keeping in mind that all of our living and all of our relationships present opportunities to practice the Gospel life.

When we do our best with that, we'll be better Franciscans.

St. Francis taught this to his friars by word and example. In fact, (God bless him!) he even had a gift of knowing when his brothers were not acting toward others as well as they should be, (not living as Jesus did in the Gospel), and he made them aware that he knew of their actions. (Wow! They couldn't get away with anything! But then again, he was just helping them reach higher levels of union and service to God and their fellow man, so how could they be upset with him??)

So let's cope with each other and the situations that present themselves in our lives with the humility and simplicity of our founder. Let's trust in God's plan for all of us, surrendering any and all worries and anxieties to the only person who can do anything about them anyway. Let us continue to live the Gospel life, recognize our "buttons," avoid negativity and perhaps even bitterness, and live in the way that if St. Francis were with us today, he would be happy that we truly did our best.

Treasurer's Report—

Albert Gigel, OFS

2025.08.31

TREASURER'S REPORT BEGINNING BALANCE \$3457.69

EXPENSES:

FFA # 418 July, Aug, Sept \$75.00

SFA Hall Rental Aug 9 \$75.00

Texas Flood Relief \$100.00

Leper Colony Assistance \$100.00

Ritual Books for Fraternity Members \$112.50

EXPENSES TOTAL: \$462.50

DEPOSITS: 8.11.2025 Deposit #1 \$440.00 8.22.2025 Deposit #2 (Mobile) \$20.00 **DEPOSITS TOTAL \$460.00**

RESERVES (FAIR SHARE) (\$1100.00)

FINAL AUGUST BALANCE \$2355.19 Please note the reserves set aside were voted on by council.

Of note, at our current monthly income level we will take in 1700 less this year than last year.

Liturgy of the Hours—Process Improvement

The Liturgy of the Hours is not a private devotion but the official prayer of the Church. When anyone prays the office, they are united with the entire Catholic Church throughout the world—including the pope, bishops, clergy, and all the lay faithful who are also praying. As Franciscans we have promised to be faithful to our church. We need to demonstrate unity of voice.

The Little Flower Fraternity is committed to joining our united voice to this important spiritual practice. The LFF Council has decided on some process improvements for our participation in the Liturgy of the Hours. The roles of Presider, Antiphonarian, and Reader will be assigned prior to each gathering. Everyone is expected to joyfully participate in any assigned roles. If you struggle with the Liturgy of the Hours, please seek out assistance from any council member. The information for the Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer will also be included in each newsletter.

Liturgy of the Hours—Morning Prayer for Saturday September 13, 2025

Presider: Michael Huether, OFS
Antiphonarian—Joan Kane, OFS
Reader—Donna Dellaglio, OFS

Opening—Page 689 Morning Prayer
Preface—Page 916
Hymn—Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Led by Phillip Pucher, OFS)
Antiphons—Page 916
Psamody—Page 916
Reading—Page 919
Responsory—Page 919
Gospel Antiphon--Page 919
Canticle of Zachariah—Page 691
Intercessions—Page 919
Final Prayer—Page 920
Closing—Page 694

“Do not forget to pray daily for your
priests. Without your prayers, they
cannot stand.”
St. Padre Pio





~ St Michael the Archangel ~

Defend us

Be our protection

*By the Divine
power of God*

~ Amen ~