

# The Angelus

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity  
Secular Franciscan Order  
September 21, 2025



Minister: Michael Oliver  
Vice-Minister: John DiBenedetto  
Formation Director: Carmencita Fiesta  
Secretary: Susan Jamison  
Treasurer: Portia Fiesta  
Counselors: Tom McGrath, Michaelle Sylla and Aurea Roland  
Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether

## September 21st Gathering

### Fraternity Picnic at the Shrine of St. Anthony!

*\*Note that this event takes the place of our regular third Sunday gathering at Our Lady of Grace*

### Agenda at the Shrine:

Noon Mass – Shrine Chapel

1:00 pm – Picnic begins outside. The picnic is hosted by St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, and several local fraternities are invited

Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. We are welcome to bring a side dish to share.

4:00 pm – the official close of the picnic.

**\*\*\*Remember to secure a ride as soon as possible\*\*\***

## Minister's Message

The tenth *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* was celebrated on Monday, September 1, 2025.

This Jubilee Year also marks the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis's encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* that focuses on 'Care for our Common Home'.

Pope Leo XIV's message on this topic was published on June 30, 2025. In it he said, "In Christ, we too are seeds, and indeed, "seeds of peace and hope". The prophet Isaiah tells us that the Spirit of God can make an arid and parched desert into a garden, a place of rest and serenity.

In his words, "a spirit from on high will be poured out on us, and the wilderness will become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field."

If you have not had the opportunity to read his full remarks, I encourage you to do so.

What are some takeaways?

We can continue to plant seeds through justice, cooperation, and love, even if the fruits take years to appear.

We should never forget that protecting creation is also protecting the vulnerable.

We should remember that the universe reflects Christ; caring for it is a form of worship.

We should focus locally; on community projects and education that can model a sustainable, peaceful way of life.

Peace and all good! Michael

## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE September 2025

A blessed day to you all, my Franciscan sisters and brothers!

We continue our study of the resource, “Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition” by John V. Kluse. This month, we will talk about other theologians’ views on God’s relationship with us through the Trinity and how all of creation has a share in it.

God wishes us to freely share His love which constitutes His nature with others...in other words, us! Bonaventure emphasized God as a loving relationship of three persons. But the Dominican theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas stressed God’s oneness and transcendence, or “otherness”, So, we see that one distinctive aspect of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition is the understanding of God in terms of a loving relationship between persons who is also in an intimate loving relationship with His creation.

Duns Scotus also emphasized God as a loving relationship, but a key understanding of his with God is God’s unbridled freedom. According to Scotus, God was and is not required to do anything. God will never be compelled to act by any given circumstance. God acts out of loving

freedom. This concept is of particular importance when we explore the Franciscan understanding of why God became human in the person of Jesus Christ.

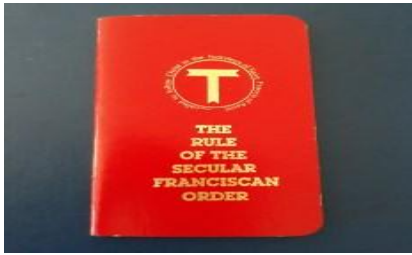
We must remember, the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition stresses God as a relationship of overflowing love and goodness who is completely free. Bonaventure described God as a “fountain fullness” of love. God is like a fountain overflowing infinitely with His self-giving love into all of creation, especially including humankind.

Another distinct feature of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition is the Franciscan understanding of the relationship between God and creation. Bonaventure saw creation as flowing freely from the love of the Trinity and not something separate from it. He considered creation not only the result of an outpouring of God’s love, but also as the background for God’s most profound demonstration of self-giving love: the Incarnation—God becoming human in the person of Christ.

In describing the significance of creation, Bonaventure brought about three ways creation is related to God: creation came forth from God, creation reflects God, and creation intends to return to God. Bonaventure described: all of creation coming forth from God as “emanation”; how all of creation revealing God as “exemplarity”; and creation returning to and being brought to fullness in God as “consummation”). According to Bonaventure, all creation came forth from God through the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity. Because of this, all of creation reflects God in some way.

Next month, we see how the Son of God and the Pascal Mystery fits in. Mike

Peace! Mike



## Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

### CHAPTER TWO: THE WAY OF LIFE

**Article 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.

#### Thoughts to ponder:

Do we unfailingly make the connection between creation in all forms and our beloved Creator?

What can we do as individuals and a fraternity to avoid exploiting creation?



**Happy Birthday and Profession anniversary!**

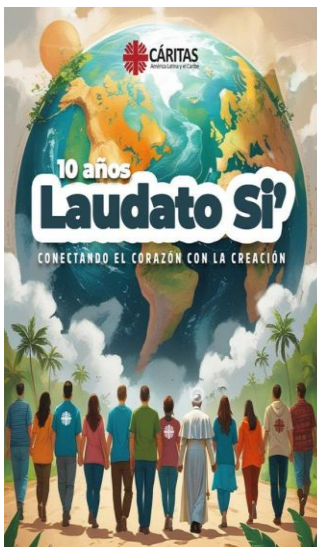
#### **September Birthdays**

Dale Eppig – September 8th

#### **September Professions**

Michael Huether – September 27, 1998

Lilian Soriano – September 14, 2002







*Reminder*

Our monthly Mass for our Living and Deceased Fraternity Members will be celebrated on September 21st at Our Lady of Grace Church at 11 AM.

*Apostolates Corner*

Online Prayer Ministry



Lead:

Susan Jamison

301-525-1555 susanjamison3@gmail.com

Our fraternity recently began participating in an online prayer ministry which Susan established on our behalf.

Please contact Susan to join. She will add your name to the group text and you will be able to ask for prayer support and respond to other prayer requests.

In addition, your prayer needs can be shared in the daily Zoom prayer gathering at 3 p.m. Please contact Tom McGrath with any such requests. He can be reached at:

240-688-7817 tom@mcgrathusa.net



*A friendly Secular Franciscan reminder!*

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If health or a special family obligation hinders you from attending our gathering, **please contact our Vice Minister, John Di Benedetto, and let him know.**

301-873-7883

*Please enjoy these pics from our August birthday celebration for Aurea, Delia, Lilian and Tom. Aurea insisted it was her 29th birthday and Tom said he was 39. Let's go with that!*

## Current November Election Slate

Minister:

- John DiBenedetto
- Carmencita Fiesta
- Tom McGrath

Vice Minister:

- John DiBenedetto
- Ingrid Roberts
- Tom McGrath

Secretary:

- Portia Fiesta
- Ingrid Roberts
- Delia Sylla

Treasurer:

- Portia Fiesta
- Michaella Sylla

Formation Director:

- Carmencita Fiesta
- Tom McGrath
- Ingrid Roberts
- Michaella Sylla

Councilors:

- Susan Jamison
- Tom McGrath
- Peggy Nicholson
- Michael Oliver
- Ingrid Roberts
- Aurea Roland
- Michaella Sylla

Three thoughts to consider:

1. You can still make nominations from the floor during the election in November
2. Start considering now who would best serve the fraternity in each position
3. Please remember to make attending the November election gathering a priority. It is our duty as professed Secular Franciscans to be present, vote and serve!

