

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



October 2025 Newsletter
Next Gathering: October 11, 2025
Burke's Hall at St Francis of Assisi Church

Be the Mirror!!!!

Minister's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Much of the last several weeks of my life have revolved around caring for my brother who is seriously ill. He is now home, but receiving hospice care. While I know that Gary is held securely in the palm of God's hand, my heart still breaks. All of this has led me to reflect more deeply than ever before on our Franciscan observance of Transitus.

Franciscans around the globe will gather on the evening of October 3rd to remember the crossing of Saint Francis from his earthly life to his eternal life. It is a time of reflection, prayer, and deep gratitude for the life and teachings of Saint Francis.

Just before Saint Francis died, he gave his brothers a final Admonition: "I have done what is mine; may Christ teach you what is yours!" With these words he acknowledged that each of his brothers (and each one of us) is unique within the universe. What a gift! Francis admonishes us-- even today-- to claim our sacred gifts and use them to serve others in Christ's name.

This year I remain particularly aware that Transitus is a reminder of our own mortality and God's promise of eternal life. Please take time to reflect on this. Consider your own life, your commitment to the Gospel, and your desire to follow in the footsteps of Saint Francis. It is a time to renew our commitment to live out the Franciscan values of fraternity, service, and reverence for all creation.

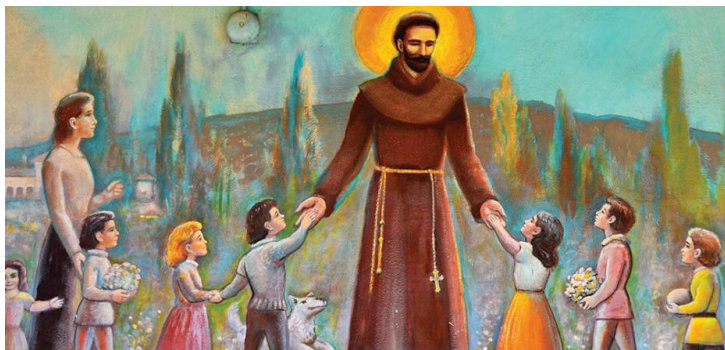
Everyone is invited to the Transitus Service at Archbishop Curley High School on Friday, October 3rd at 7 PM. There is also Transitus gathering at the Shrine of St. Anthony's in Ellicott City. This gathering is slated to begin at twilight on October 3rd in the Chapel. Both of these services are beautiful and deeply meaningful.

Additionally, the Little Flower Fraternity is invited to the Shrine of St Anthony for a Hope in Creation Pilgrimage! The event will run from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 4, 2025. Anyone who attends this event is welcome to come Fox & Barrel Farm Café for lunch. This would be a wonderful way to mark the feast day of Saint Francis as well as celebrate this Year of Jubilee!

Have blessed month! I hope to see you all at our next fraternity gathering on October 11th.

Peace and All Good, Teresa

Be the Mirror! Reflect Christ at all times!



Helen's Luncheon



Helen enjoyed her luncheon. She and John love visitors to their home. Anyone from the Little Flower Fraternity is always welcome. Please give John a call if you would like to visit. Thank you!



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 Cantic 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.

Join us for Transitus!



*Transitus is a prayer service remembering
the death of St. Francis*

Archbishop Curley
Friday
October 3rd at 7pm

Connect and Reflect



SAVE THE DATE

21st Quinquennial
of the Secular Franciscan Order
of the USA

Come celebrate with your Franciscan family! The Core Committee is looking forward to seeing you at the Q! 29 July – 02 August, 2026 in Lexington, Kentucky. Registration is now open.



Prayer Intentions for October 2025:

Teresa Knauff, OFS, Gary Knauff, Kathleen Hale, OFS, Mary Lee Carroll, John O'Neill (RIP), Barbara Bruno, OFS, Jaci Curry, OFS, Fr. Bart Karwacki, OFM

Venerable Matt Talbot, OFS

<https://angelusnews.com/>

June 2025

Matt can be considered the patron of men and women struggling with alcoholism. He was born in Dublin, where his father worked on the docks and had a difficult time supporting his family. After a few years of schooling, Matt obtained work as a messenger for some liquor merchants; there he began to drink excessively. For 15 years—until he was almost 30—Matt was an active alcoholic.

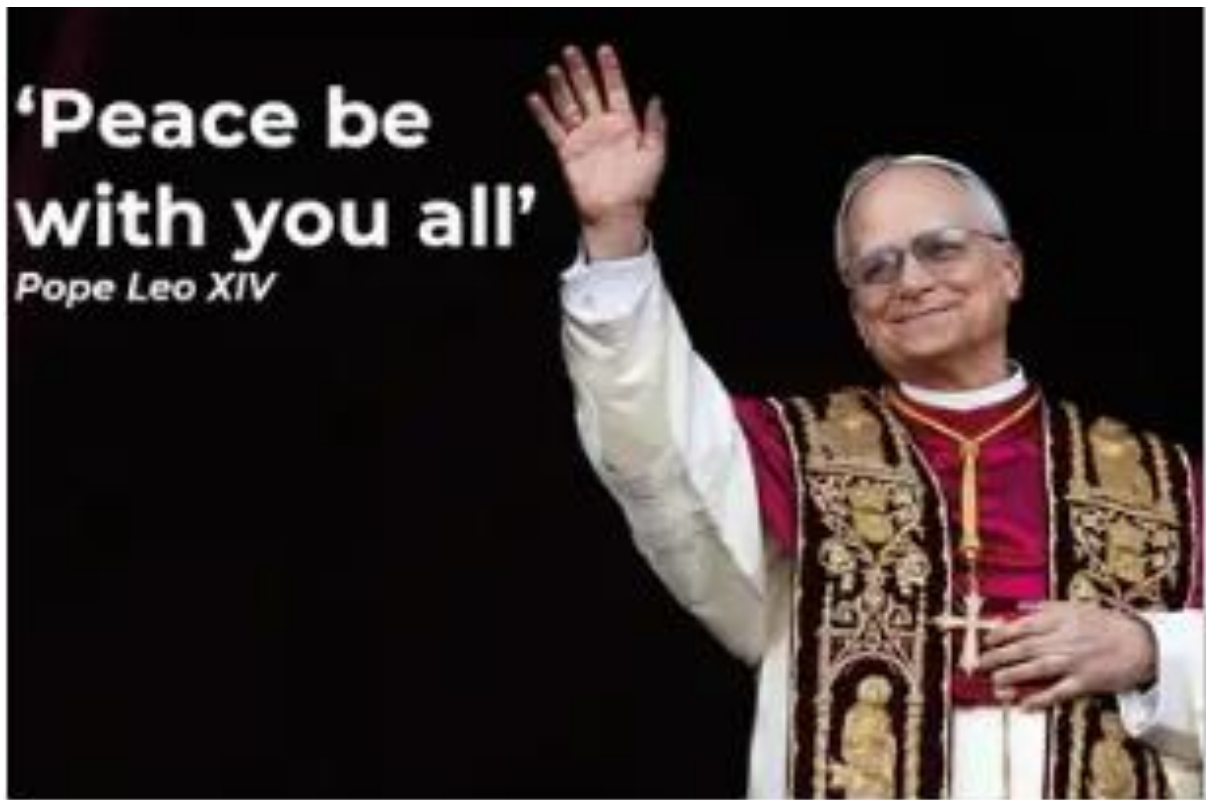
One day he decided to take “the pledge” for three months, make a general confession and begin to attend daily Mass. There is evidence that Matt’s first seven years after taking the pledge were especially difficult. Avoiding his former drinking places was hard. He began to pray as intensely as he used to drink. He also tried to pay back people from whom he had borrowed or stolen money while he was drinking.

Most of his life Matt worked as a builder’s laborer. He joined the Secular Franciscan Order and began a life of strict penance; he abstained from meat nine months a year. Matt spent hours every night avidly reading Scripture and the lives of the saints. He prayed the rosary conscientiously. Though his job did not make him rich, Matt contributed generously to the missions.

After 1923, Matt’s health failed, and he was forced to quit work. He died on his way to church on Trinity Sunday. Fifty years later, Pope Paul VI gave Matt Talbot the title venerable. His liturgical feast is celebrated on June 19. Reflection

In looking at the life of Matt Talbot, we may easily focus on the later years when he had stopped drinking for some time and was leading a penitential life. Only alcoholic men and women who have stopped drinking can fully appreciate how difficult the earliest years of sobriety were for Matt.

He had to take one day at a time. So do the rest of us. Venerable Matt Talbot is the Patron Saint of: Alcoholics, Recovery from Substance Abuse and Addictions, and Sobriety



Let us pray for the intentions of the Pope— October 2025
For collaboration between different religious traditions
Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might
work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and
human fraternity.

Little Flower Fraternity Celebrations for October

October Professions: Joan Kane 10/1, Ann German 10/1'
Kelly Frederick 10/1, Marjorie Foor 10/15, Anne Prosser
10/15, Beverly Edwards 10/15, Mark Evans 10/18, Gary
Haigley 10/23, Elsie Saylor 10/24, Albert Gigel 10/26, Helen
Bridges 10/29

October Birthdays: Joan Kane 10/14

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation



**Basilica of the National Shrine of the
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
409 CATHEDRAL STREET | BALTIMORE, MD 21201

CELEBRANT

Archbishop William E. Lori

HONOREES

CULTURE OF LIFE MEDAL | Judith Crowninshield
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL | Ellen Salter

Reception will follow Mass.



October is Respect for Life Month!

The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is ***cherished***.

God creates every person for eternal union with Himself and continually invites us to embrace a loving relationship with Him. Every person is ***chosen***.

We are called to be messengers of God's love, treating one another as cherished and chosen by Him. In doing so, we help build a culture that respects all human life. Every person is ***sent***.

Please pray for the entire spectrum of Pro-Life issues!

FORMATION STATION

Phil Pucher, OFS

My fellow Secular Franciscans, in order to grow to the full maturity the Lord desires for us we must dedicate ourselves to continuously being taught by Him as He guides us deeper into the mystery of The Holy Trinity and our lives as Secular Franciscans living in the fullness of His Love for us in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church He founded as did our Seraphic Father Saint Francis of Assisi in whose footprints we yearn to follow.

Our Rule calls us to live in ongoing formation and growth in the Faith. We study and share with each other the great gifts of the knowledge of God alive in Christ Jesus transforming us from moment to moment into sons and daughters of the Living God.

As we begin a new phase in our formation process in the fraternity gatherings please prepare by reading the formation lessons that will appear in the newsletter, answering the questions for yourself, and be willing to share your thoughts with the fraternity gathered. Remember that The Holy Spirit is the advocate, guide, and teacher whom Jesus promised to send and whom we received at our Confirmation. Let us trust in Him.

This is our first lesson of this series titled What Makes Secular Franciscans Different from Other Catholics? So let us dive right in.

We Catholics have many things in common. Most of us grew up attending Mass every Sunday. We go to confession every so often. We pray many of the same prayers: the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Memorare, the Angelus, and prayers asking for the intercession of our favorite saints. Some Catholics read a bit of Scripture every day and attend bible study and some may even pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

So, what makes Secular Franciscans different?

Beginning at October's gathering and continuing over five gatherings non-sequentially, we will consider five things about Secular Franciscans that set us apart from our brothers and sisters in the faith. Not in a spirit of bombast but in a spirit of improving our dedication and living of our Secular Franciscan charism and life profession to serve Holy Mother Church. (There may even be more than five, but we will study five.)

THE FIRST THING: OUR PROFESSION

All Catholics at Baptism receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and become part of the Church. And at Confirmation all Catholics are prepared by the Holy Spirit to participate fully in the mission of the Church. For us Secular Franciscans our profession is our special opportunity to experience a further strengthening of the promises that were made for us (or that we made) at Baptism. Through the Spirit, we “bind ourselves more closely to the Church and work intently to rebuild the ecclesial community and fulfill its mission among all people.” (*See Rite of Permanent Commitment, Ritual p. 29*)

In reviewing the *Rite of Permanent Commitment (Profession)* in the Ritual book, you will see that at Profession, we **make/made a commitment to live the Gospel** by following in the **footsteps of St. Francis**. The special charism given to us by St. Francis is that he showed that the Gospel can be lived by ordinary Catholics. We, as Secular Franciscans, strive to do this in our daily lives. Therefore, we need to be thoroughly familiar with Sacred Scripture—especially the Gospels. At the Rite of Profession, we are presented with the book of the Gospels. At the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming, we are given a biography of St. Francis, and at the Rite of Admission, we are given a copy of the Rule of Life. All three of these gifts remind us that we are to internalize how St. Francis lived; how Jesus lived and taught; and how we are to live as Secular Franciscans.

At Profession, we promised to **build a more fraternal and evangelical** world based on the Gospel. We promised to be **faithful to our vocation** and to practice the **spirit of service**. We promised to **bind ourselves more closely to the Church** and to **participate more fully in her mission**. And, we **pledged to make fraternity a visible sign of the Church**, a community of faith and love. During the Rite of Profession, we answered, “Yes, this is what I want,” in response to questions asked regarding these promises.

Read and consider the following words taken from the Rite of Profession:

The candidates say: *“We ask to be admitted to profession of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order and to make a permanent commitment to the gospel life. [Our formation] has strengthened us in the conviction that the Lord is calling us to observe the holy gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by following the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.”* (Ritual p. 34)

Finally, the **WORDS OF PROFESSION** are pronounced by the candidates: *“I, ___, by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state, (or as a member of the diocesan clergy), I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the /secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love.”*

After rereading the promises of profession outlined above think about the following questions for discussion at the October gathering and jot down some thoughts to share.

1. How do I live out my profession promises in my daily life?
2. Which promises of profession are most challenging to me?
3. How do I see these promises lived out by the members of my fraternity?
4. How can I encourage my fraternity brothers and sisters to improve our living out of the promises we all made at our professions?
5. How could the Council assist us in living our profession promises more fully and faithfully?

Most Holy Spirit guide me in my ongoing formation that I might live in the fullness of Christ's love, who lives with the Father and You in the Unity of the Most Holy Trinity forever and ever. Amen.

Albert Gigel, OFS

BEGINNING BALANCE \$3455.19

SFA Hall Rental Sept 13	\$75.00
Mass Cards \$30.00	

DEPOSITS:

9.23.2025	Deposit #1	\$440.00
9.26.2025	Deposit #2 (Mobile)	\$40.00

Preliminary Balance **\$3830.19**

RESERVES (FAIR SHARE) (\$1100.00)

FINAL SEPTEMBER BALANCE \$2730.19

******* If you would like to mail your contribution to Al, his address is:**
602 Maiden Choice Lane
104
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Little Flower Fraternity Council Members

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

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