

# Little Flower Fraternity Newsletter Feb 2026

Ordo Saeularis Franciscanus



St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Next Fraternity Gathering  
February 14, 2026

## Agenda

Opening Prayer at 10 am  
Liturgy of the Hours  
Memorial for Saints Cyril,  
Monk and Methodius  
Bishop  
Christian Prayer  
Ordinary page 654  
Psalter Saturday Week 1,  
Page 770  
Common of Pastors  
Page 1426.(reading and  
intercessions)  
Proper of the Saints  
Page 1092.(canticle,  
antiphon, concluding  
prayer)  
Presider – Al Gigel  
Antiphonarian-Teresa  
Reader: Mike Huether  
Short Business Meeting  
Fr. Bart’s Presentation  
Break  
Ongoing Formation  
Closing Prayer



Belated Happy Birthday  
1/6 to Frank Passaro who  
was mistakenly omitted  
last month. Hope it was  
joyous Frank!

## Prayer Intentions

Fr. George Brownholtz,  
OSFS  
Bill Prosser, R.I.P.  
Son of Anne Prosser, OFS  
Maria Mercaldo, OFS  
Phil Pucher, OFS  
Donna & family  
Donna’s mother R.I.P.



February Birthday  
Donna Dellaglio - 2/9

## Profession Anniversaries



Marge Lane. 2/27  
Frank Passaro 2/24

*Be A Mirror*

*Reflect Jesus*

2026.01.31

## Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$6054.80</b>
<b>Expenses.</b>	
SFA Hall Rental.	\$75
Mass Card.	\$15
Stipend SA for Jan Feb March	\$225
Check # 1701	
Purchase \$2000 CD.	\$2000
<b>Expenses Total.</b>	<b>\$2315</b>
Deposit #1 01.23.26.	\$380
Deposit #2. 01.27.26.	\$40
<b>Deposits Total</b>	<b>\$420</b>
<b>Total on Hand</b>	<b>\$4159.80</b>
<b>\$4159.80</b>	
<b>-\$1100.00 Reserve for Fair Share</b>	
<b>\$ 3059.80 Working Balance</b>	

If possible, so far as it  
depends upon you, live  
peaceably with all.

Romans 12:18

Below a note from the Ignatius  
Catholic Study Bible; RSV 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Catholic Edition.p.2013:

### Live peaceably :

Peacemaking is part of the  
Christin mission. Since  
harmony is sometimes  
impossible, Paul qualifies his  
command, recognizing that  
peace cannot be forced on  
others (CCC2304).

## Minister's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are firmly in the heart of winter! I hope you all had a very happy start to 2026 and are managing to keep warm. It is unbelievable that it is already February. Lent begins on the 18<sup>th</sup> and I pray that by the grace of God we all strive for holiness during this sacred season.

The Lenten season prepares our hearts and souls for the Glory of Easter. During this time of reflection and penance we are called to become more aware of Jesus' suffering and death. As Jesus carried His cross, we must carry ours. Our crosses take the shape of our pain and illness, disappointments and insecurities, losses and grief, addictions and sinful tendencies. Although we each have our own cross, we should never despair!

Lent reminds us that Jesus carried His cross first. His suffering was a literal cross compounded by the weight of human sin. Rather than avoiding this pain, He willingly and intentionally embraced it. Jesus taught us, and continues to teach us, how to face our crosses. Our daily sufferings are not to be avoided. As followers of Christ our suffering is to be endured. It is through carrying our own crosses that we are transformed.

By offering His suffering and death on the Cross to His Father for our salvation, Jesus offers us a guide for our suffering. Our hardships, struggles and pain can be offered to God in reparation for ourselves and others.

How can we bear our crosses? The only way is by following Jesus. It is our connection to God that sustains us through even our heaviest burdens. This Lent, let us deepen our relationship with God and surrender to Him all that weighs us down. Through this holy relationship we find an unending source of strength which enables us to carry our personal crosses with dignity and faith.

Our next gathering will be on Valentines Day! How wonderful to spend Valentine's Day with those with whom we share the bonds of fraternal love inspired by St. Francis of Assisi. I love and appreciate you all.

Love,

Peace and All Good

Teresa Knauff OFS

## Upcoming Events

The Shrine of St. Anthony is offering various Bible Studies and Workshops by the Friars starting in February through September. One can sign up for these on their website:

<https://www.shrineofstanthony.org>

Click on Events and then click on studies and workshops

## Council Members

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<b>Newlsetter Editor:</b>		
	Bonnie Ng.	

## What Goes First?

In “Bible in a Year”, Fr. Mike Schmitz points out that when the Israelites engaged in battle, the tribe of Judah” went up” first. Judah..... Whose name means ”praise”. Praise was always in the lead, as they faced their battles. In that, Fr. Mike maintains, there an important spiritual lesson for all of us.

We know that St. Franics gloried in the wonder of God and His creation. Thanksgiving and praise poured from him. Are we consciously bringing that same sense of reverent wonder into our own conversation with God? Do we put praise first – not only in our battles – but in the ordinary, calmer events of everyday life?

Frequently in Sunday morning prayer, we have part of Daniel 3, which is so simiiar to The Canticle of the Creatures. When we seek to honor God with praise, it’s possible to look outside and sincerely pray, “Cold and chill, bless the Lord.....ice and snow, bless the Lord”. In a few months, we’ll call on heat to bless the Lord. Daniel’s joyful prayer concludes by asking “Holy men of humble heart” to bless the Lord. As we approach Lent, let’s keep that description in mind. In a grateful cooperation with God’s lavish grace, let us strive to be holy. And with humble hearts, let us glorify the Lord by learning to let praise “go up” first. Always.

Sandy Chabot, O.F.S.

## A Franciscan Jubilee Year

Pope Leo has proclaimed a special Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death. It started on January 10<sup>th</sup> and continues through January 10<sup>th</sup> 2027.

In his Decree for the Jubilee Year, Pope Leo writes, “this year of St. Francis spurs all of us, each according to our possibilities, to imitate the *poor man of Assisi*, to form ourselves as far as possible on the model of Christ”.

In celebrating this Year of St. Francis, a Plenary Indulgence is granted when one makes a pilgrimage to any Franciscan Church, Shrine or place of worship named after or connected with St. Francis.

The usual conditions for a Plenary Indulgence apply: the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attending Mass, receiving Holy Communion and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father. The Plenary Indulgence can be applied to the souls in Purgatory as well. One should pray for charity, harmony and peace among people. Pilgrimage prayers should conclude with the Our Father, the Creed and prayers to the Blessed Mother and St. Francis.

There are two beautiful Pilgrimage Sites in our area: The Shrine of St. Anthony on Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City run by the Conventual Franciscan Friars with whom we are bonded and the Franciscan

Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C.

Division, violence and hatred afflicts our world. As Secular Franciscans, we should be praying for peace and harmony daily and doing acts of reparation.

What a wonderful opportunity this Year of St. Francis is for us to grow closer to Jesus, St. Francis and other Franciscan Saints as well as with each other. What a special blessing to pray with the entire Church. Let making a Pilgrimage to a holy place of St. Francis and praying daily for peace and harmony be a Resolution for 2026.

Bonnie Ng, O.F.S.

### *Jubilee Prayer to St. Francis*

*St. Francis, our brother,  
You who eight hundred years ago  
Went to meet Sister Death as a man of  
peace,  
intercede for us before the Lord.*

*You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of  
San Damiano;  
Teach us to seek in Him the source of all  
reconciliation  
That breaks down every wall.*

*You who are unarmed, crossed the lines of  
war and misunderstanding,  
Gives us the courage to build bridges  
Where the world raises up boundaries.*

*In this time afflicted by conflict and  
division, Intercede for us so that we become  
peacemakers: Unarmed and disarming  
witnesses of the peace that comes from  
Christ, Amen.*