



June 2026

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Vice Minister: Janette Martin, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Joseph Kennedy, OFS; Formation Director: Michael Landrigan, OFS; Councilor-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Spiritual Assistant: Gil Donahue, OFS

Meeting – 2:00 p.m. - Sunday, May 17, 2026

St. Ann's Catholic Church
Room 105 (under the Church)
5300 10th St N, Arlington, VA 22205

(NOTE: Not at OLOL!)

We are collecting bath towels for the homeless

- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – In preparation for Ongoing Formation, review the *Secular Franciscan Rule* as always, with special emphasis on Articles 10 and 11. See Page 4 for related articles from the General Constitutions.

- For our "Go Around" and discussion, please think about these two questions. - - -

1) Based on Article 10, what are some duties you are called to fulfill that are based on circumstances in your life? And how do you fulfill them?

2) Based on Article 11, are there any specific ways you live out the simplicity and poverty in your life that the article is calling for?

- *Fellowship*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Psalms/Reading/Responsory/Intercessions from Evening Prayer II for Sunday, Psalter Week III
 - Gospel Canticle Antiphon / Closing Prayer from the Proper of Seasons, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.
 - Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayer* – Ritual, p. 36.

Table of Contents

Minister's Reflection – p. 2
Birthdays of the Month – p. 3
Professions – p. 3
Necrology – p. 3
Prayer Intentions – p. 3
Secretary's Notes – p. 4
Spiritual Assistant's Corner – p. 4 –
Saint Thomas More
Fr. Jerome – p. 5 – *The Eternal City*
General Constitutions and Rule 10/11 – p. 5
Saints of the Month – p. 7
Be the Light – 2026 Regional Formation
Retreat – p. 8



Minister's Reflection



In the past few weeks, we have celebrated the major feasts of the Ascension, Pentecost, Holy Trinity, and Corpus Christi. Christmas and Easter – the foundations of our faith – notwithstanding, these recent feasts sum up our faith and our relationship with God. They demonstrate, to the extent that we feeble humans can comprehend them, the width, breadth, and depth of God's love for us.

It is through the beloved Son's willingness to become human and to die for us that we first see how much the Father loves us. (Franciscan theology posits that Jesus would have come to share our humanity even without the need to redeem us via the crucifixion, because he loved us so much that he wanted to share in our human existence.) How wonderful for those who had the chance to meet, get to know, and follow Jesus in the flesh, both before and after the Resurrection!

Yet Jesus tells his followers that he cannot stay with them but must return to Heaven, so that he can send us a permanent advocate and advisor. He adds that those who believe in him without the in-person experience will be equally, if not more, blessed than his contemporary group. The Ascension, with that promise of further support in our lives, is the first of these glorious feasts.

Jesus makes good on that promise on Pentecost, when he sends us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit may be invisible, but he is a wonderful friend and support for us. He helps us in a wide variety of ways: to give just two personal examples, I have often felt his presence when I have asked for his help in singing a difficult psalm so that I may glorify

God and help the congregation to do so and/or to find and prepare the music I need for a liturgy. He also helps me to write these reflections, which I could not do on my own, guiding my pen even when I haven't been sure at the beginning what I was going to say.

The next feast, that of the Holy Trinity, brings everything back together. The Church reminds us that Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit would not exist without the Father. Our God is a triune God, one in three persons. Each has his own function, but they exist as one indivisible entity. God the Father created us as a loving parent, sinners though we are. (If we were perfect, we would be robots, not human beings with free will, a sometimes-frustrating paradox and mystery of our faith.) He sends us his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to love us and validate our humanity by sharing it and to redeem us by his death and resurrection and by the example of how he lived while on earth. The Son in turn sends us the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, our loving guide and advocate. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, God the Father calls us to try to love as his Son loved, rejoicing in God's love and sharing it with all of his creatures – in our case, following the path that St Francis gave us, i.e., our Rule, as a way of doing so.

Last, but not least, we have Corpus Christi, the feast of the most Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. What another splendid reminder that, although he left us by his Ascension into Heaven, he did not abandon us. Not only did he send us the Holy Spirit, he left us his body and blood to provide sustenance and further support for us. Our Lord lives in the tabernacle, where we can adore him, reflect on the glorious mystery of the Father's love for us, and implore the help of the Holy Spirit as we try to live "from Gospel to life and life to Gospel." We can receive him physically every time we go to mass, a constant opportunity to open ourselves to his message, love, and blessing.

Our Lord does not promise us an easy road if we choose to embrace his mystery, his love, and his example. But he does promise us help along the way. In addition to all the divine sources of assistance discussed above, he provides other advocates and guides for us, such as St Francis and St Clare. He also provides our families and fraternities as support in our daily attempts to live our faith, loving the (triune) Lord Our God and our neighbor. May he continue to help us on our way, until we are finally blessed to see him face to face.

Pax et Bonum,
Sita

N.B. I will not be able to attend our June meeting, as I will be doing a visitation for another fraternity. Jan Martin will lead the meeting.

Professions

6/08/1980

Plunkett, Christine (Christine)
Olszewski, Ronald

6/12/1983

Coipuram, Grace (Claire)
Kennedy, Joseph C (Joseph)
Landrigan, Michael (John)

6/08/1985

Gill, Angela (Angela Merici)
Lisbeth, Terrence L (Robert Southwell)

6/13/1992

Martin, Janette (Bernadette)

6/10/1995

Palasek, Ralph (Brother Leo)

Birthdays of the Month

June

Sita Chakrawarti (7th)

July

Angela Gill (12th)
Patrick Birello (12th)
Joseph Kennedy (16th)

Necrology

Teresa H Bullock – June 1991

Edmund J Fitzgerald – June 18, 1999

John H Conroy – June 29, 1999

Adeline Ambury – June 12, 2001

Connie Cobado – June 3, 2018

Prayer Intentions

For...

- For our fathers, living and deceased
- For the fathers in our fraternity, that they have a blessed Father's Day
- For those who are celebrating graduations
- *For vocations to our Fraternity and all branches of the Franciscan family.*
- For peace with Iran, in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, and wherever there is violence.
- *For the victims of violence particularly from war*

and the conversion of the violent.

- For the upholding of human life from conception until natural death.
- *The health, protection and guidance of Pope Leo XIV, all bishops, priests, deacons, friars, and religious sisters.*
- A just peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- *Grace Coipuram, OFS*
- Angela Gill, OFS who is undergoing chemo for cancer and her husband Anthony who has cysts on his pancreas.
- *For continued healing from a fall for Margaret, mother of Anne-Marie Pastorkovich and...*
- For Katherine, who has ALS
- *For Denise, who is having chemotherapy*
- For Theresa, whose funeral was this week
- *For Donald, who is in memory care*
- Patrick Birello's back and leg issues.
- *For recovery for Ralph Palasek from the aftereffects of battling an infection.*
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who suffers from congestive heart failure.
- *Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, and for all those suffering from depression.*
- Liz's friend Dan who has Parkinson's Disease.
- *For Liz Shaeffer, OFS' niece, Liz Williamson, 35, mother of two, recovering from brain surgery.*
- For the repose of Carmelita and Onfre Junior, cousins Elly Escobar, OFS.
- *For healing for April's back of her upper legs, knees, and lower legs.*
- For April's friend, Kathleen who suddenly passed away while she was planting in her garden.
- *The sister of a friend of April, who does not want her sister to pray for her.*
- April's friend who has been overseas and never came back to the States.
- *April's friend, whose husband avoids Church, and his ex-wife who never went to Church.*
- The grandson of April's friend and another friend with suddenly worsening dementia.
- *For April's friend's mother, Adelaide and Christian, the grandson of a friend.*
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- *Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.*
- Prisoners, the sick, poor, hungry, lonely, the elderly and their caregivers, homeless, unemployed, the dying and those with no one to pray for them.

- *The work of the Order of Malta in Bethlehem in this time of strife and war.*
- The union of all Christians and salvation of all.

Secretary’s Notes

We have relocated to St. Ann’s Catholic Church. The address is 5300 10th St N, Arlington, VA 22205. We meet in Room 105, which is downstairs below the nave itself. It can be accessed from the office entrance of the small parking lot in front of the Church near Frederick St. or by taking the stairs or elevator down from the vestibule.

Gil has written a reflection below on St. Thomas More, our fraternity patron and the patron of

the Diocese of Arlington. His feast is celebrated on June 22 because it is linked in the General Calendar with St. John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester who was martyred on this day for much the same reason as St. Thomas More.

We also mark the return of Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM’s monthly reflection as he settles into his new job in the Dicastery for Eastern Churches.

Lastly, the region managed to schedule two retreats in June, the flyer for the Regional Formation Retreat is on page 8.

Peace and Good,
Randy



Spiritual Assistant’s Corner



SAINT THOMAS MORE - JUNE 22
(FEBRUARY 7, 1478 – JULY 6, 1535)

St. Thomas More is important to this fraternity as its patron. It is appropriate to reflect on his life, his courage to support the faith, and his martyrdom. Thomas More’s belief that no lay ruler has jurisdiction over the Church of Christ cost him his life. Beheaded on Tower Hill, London, on July 6, 1535, More steadfastly refused to approve King Henry VIII’s divorce and remarriage and the establishment of the separate Church of England.

Described as “a man for all seasons,” Thomas More was a literary scholar, eminent lawyer, gentleman, father of four children, and chancellor of England. An intensely spiritual man, he would not support the king’s divorce from Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn. Nor would he acknowledge Henry as supreme head of the Church in England, breaking with Rome, and denying the Pope as head.

More was committed to the Tower of London to await trial for treason: not swearing to the Act of Succession and the Oath of Supremacy. Upon conviction, More declared he had all the councils of Christendom and not just the council of one realm to support him in the decision of his conscience.

Reflection

Four hundred years later in 1935, Thomas More was canonized a saint of God. Few saints are more relevant to our time. In the year 2000, in fact, Pope John Paul II named him patron of political leaders. The supreme diplomat and counselor, he did not compromise his own moral values in order to please the king, knowing that true allegiance to authority is not blind acceptance of everything that authority wants.

King Henry VIII himself realized this and tried desperately to win his chancellor to his side because he knew More was a man whose approval counted, a man whose personal integrity no one questioned. But when Thomas More resigned as chancellor, unable to approve the two matters that meant most to Henry, the king had to get rid of him.

Saint Thomas More is a Patron Saint of: Attorneys, Civil Servants, Court Clerks, Lawyers, Politicians, and Public Servants St. Thomas More, Pray for us

*Gil Donahue, OFS
Spiritual Assistant, St. Thomas More Fraternity
8 June 2026*



The Eternal City

Rome is sometimes called “The Eternal City” ... I suppose this is partly because of the antiquities here, not only art and architecture, but an ancient sense of culture. Even before the Romans, people lived on the territory we call Italy. Through wars and conquests over millennia, Rome and its culture remain and remain attractive to people from around the world.

Another reason Rome appears to be the Eternal City is because of its link to the Church. St Peter died here, and I plan to go on the scavi tour to see where he was buried under what is now St Peter’s Basilica after I’ve had a chance to settle in. One of the earliest churches in Rome is St John in Lateran—the church the Lateran family gave to become the cathedral for the Christians of Rome.

Ultimately, Rome is Eternal because all of this—not only the Church, but implicitly, all of the beauty of the hills and river and art and architecture—point to the Eternal One, our Heavenly Father, and the Eternal Life that we hope to share with Him.

For your June reflection and discussion:

* Have you ever visited Rome? Why do you think Rome is “the Eternal City”?

* How do you take the material things of this life to make a bit of Eternity present here and now where you live?

We'd love your feedback!

Jerome, OFM

jeromeofm@gmail.com

General Constitutions

Articles Applying Directly to Articles 10 and 11 of the Rule

Article 10

Rule 10. “Christ, poor and crucified”, victor over death and risen, the greatest manifestation of the love of God for humanity, is the “book” in which the brothers and sisters, in imitation of Francis, learn the purpose and the way of living, loving, and suffering. They discover in Him the value of contradictions for the sake of justice and the meaning of the difficulties and the crosses of daily life. With Him they can accept the will of the Father even under the most difficult circumstances and live the Franciscan spirit of peace, rejecting every doctrine contrary to human dignity.

Article 12.2

Rule 10. With Jesus, obedient even to death, they should seek to know and do the will of the Father. They should give thanks to God for the gift of freedom and for the revelation of the law of love. In order to carry out the will of the Father, they should accept the help which is offered to them through the mediation of the Church by those

who are given authority in her and by their confreres. They should take on the risk of courageous choices in their life in society with decisiveness and serenity.

Article 15

1. *Rule 11.* Secular Franciscans are committed to live the spirit of the Beatitudes and, in a special way, the spirit of poverty. Evangelical poverty demonstrates confidence in the Father, creates interior freedom, and disposes them to promote a more just distribution of wealth.

2. Secular Franciscans, who must provide for their own families and serve society by means of their work and material goods, have a particular manner of living evangelical poverty. To understand and achieve it requires a strong personal commitment and the encouragement of the Fraternity in prayer and dialogue, communal review of life, and attentiveness to the instructions of the Church, and the demands of society.

3. Secular Franciscans should commit themselves to reduce their own personal needs so as to be better able to share spiritual and material goods with their brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. They should give thanks to God for the goods they have received, using them as good stewards and not as owners. They should take a firm position against consumerism and against ideologies and practices which prefer riches over human and religious values, and which permit the exploitation of the human person.

4. They should love and practice purity of heart, the source of true fraternity.

Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

- June 2 St. Felix of Nicosia, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (November 5, 1715-May 31, 1787)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_of_Nicosia
Bl. John Pelingotto, Secular Franciscan Order (1240-Jun 3 1, 1304)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Pelingotto
- June 3 Bl. Andrew of Spello, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (November 30, 1194-June 3, 1254)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-andrew-of-spello.html>
- June 5 Bl. Pacific of Cerano, Priest, First Order Franciscan (1424-June 4, 1482)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-pacific-of-cerano.html>
- June 7 Bl. Humiliana Cerchi, Third Order Secular (1219-May 19, 1246)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-humiliana-cerchi.html>
- June 8 Bl. Nicholas of Gèsturi, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (August 4, 1882-June 8, 1958)
https://www.capuchin.org/saints_blessed/blessed-nicholas-of-gesturi
- June 12 Bl. Florida Cevoli, Poor Clare Capuchin (November 11, 1685-June 12, 1767)
<https://www.santaveronicagiuliani.it/blessed-florida-cevoli/?lang=en>
108 Blessed Polish Martyrs, Bl. Antoninus Bajewski, priest, and companions, martyrs (Pius Bartosik, Innocent Guz, Achille Puchala, Herman Stepien, priests; Timothy Troianowski, Boniface Zukowski, religious 1st Order)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/108_Martyrs_of_World_War_II
- June 17 St. Albert Chmielowski, Third Order Secular, Founder, Brothers of the Third Order of Saint Francis, Servants to the Poor (August 20, 1845-December 25, 1916)
<http://saintsresource.com/albert-chmielowski/>
Bl. Peter Gambacorti, Founder, Third Order Secular (1355-1435)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/peter-gambacorti-of-pisa.html>
- June 18 Bl. Guy of Cortona, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. May 12, 1250)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-guy-of-cortona.html>
- June 19 Bl. Margaretha Flesch, Foundress, Franciscan Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Angels (February 24, 1826-March 25, 1906)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaretha_Flesch

- June 20 Bl. Michelina of Pesaro, Third Order Secular (1300-1356)
<https://vitaesanctorum.wordpress.com/2016/06/20/blessed-michelina-of-pesaro/>
- Bls. Patrick O’Healy, Conrad O’Rourke, Conor O’Devany, and John Hearney, Friars Minor, Irish Martyrs
https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/archive/people/101_mayo_people/religion/blessed_patrick_o_healy
- June 22 St. Thomas More, Third Order Secular, Martyr of England (February 7, 1478-July 6, 1535)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_More
- June 23 St. Joseph Cafasso, Priest, Third Order Secular (January 15, 1811-June 23, 1860)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Cafasso
- June 26 Bl. Blessed Andrea Giacinto Longhin, Bishop, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin
 (November 22, 1863-June 26, 1936)
https://www.capuchin.org/saints_blessed/blessed-andrea-giacinto-longhin/
- Bl. Jacob El-Haddad of Ghazir, Priest and Founder, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin
 (February 1, 1875-June 26, 1954)
https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/2008/ns_lit_doc_20080622_haddad_en.html
- June 27 Bl. Davanzato of Poggibonzi, Priest, Third Order Regular (c. 1200-July 7, 1295)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-davanzato-of-poggibonzi.html>
- St. Marguerite Bays, Third Order Secular (September 8, 1815-June 27, 1879)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marguerite_Bays
- June 28 St. Vincenta Gerosa, Third Order Secular before founding another order
 (October 29, 1784-June 29, 1847)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincenza_Gerosa
- June 30 Bl. Raymond Lull, Martyr, Third Order Secular (c. 1232-c. 1315)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-raymond-lull.html>
- July 1 St. Junipero Serra, Priest, Alcantarine Friars Minor, missionary (November 24, 1713-August 28, 1784)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/the-franciscan-saints-junipero-serra/>
- Bls Marcello Maruzzo, Friar OFM (23 July 1929 – 1 July 1981) and Luis Navarro, OFS
 (21 June 1950 – 1 July 1981) Martyrs of Guatemala
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcello_Maruzzo_and_Luis_Navarro
- July 3 Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta, Foundress, Franciscan Missionaries of the
 Mother of the Divine Shepherd (January 13, 1827-July 3, 1886)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrina_Mogas_Fontcuberta
- July 4 St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Third Order Secular (1271-1336)
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Elizabeth-of-Portugal>
- July 4 St. John Zhang Huan, Martyr, Franciscan seminarian (August 1838-July 9, 1900)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-huan-john-st>
- Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, Priest, OFM of the Alcantarines (September 9, 1802-July 4, 1854)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domenico_Mazzarella
- St. Peter Zhang Banniu, Martyr, Secular Franciscan (1849-August 1838-July 9, 1900)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/zhang-banniu-peter-st>
- July 8 Ss. Gregory Grassi, Hermine Grivot and Companions, First Order and Third Order Religious and
 Secular Franciscans, Martyrs of China (d. 1900)
<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0708-1042.htm>
- July 9 Bl. Marija of Jesus Crucified Petković, Foundress, Third Order Regular
 (December 10, 1892-July 9, 1966)
https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20030606_petkovic_en.html
- 11 Martyrs of Damascus, Eight Franciscan Friars and Three Maronite Laymen (July 9, 1860)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/damascus-martyrs>
- St. Nicholas Pieck and Companions: Anthony Hornaer, Anthony of Weert, Cornelius, Francis,
 Godfrey, Jerome, Nicasius, Peter, Theodoric, Willehad, Martyrs of Holland (d. 1572)
<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11065b.htm>



"Be the Light!"

2026 Regional Formation Retreat

June 26-28, 2026

**Mark your calendar for June 26-28
for the Regional Formation Retreat!**

At this year's retreat we will continue our Franciscan growth about living the gospel and being of service to all around us in our fraternities, parishes, and communities. St. Francis founded our order because as Secular Franciscans we are the bridge from our communities to the church.

As Franciscans we bring life to the Gospel and share the love of Jesus by our presence and actions – and when necessary use words. Together - let's discover ways that we are doing that now, and how we can increase in "being the light" of the gospel wherever we are!

1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen people... that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light".

Matthew 5:16

"in the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."



Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM-Conv. will preside over this retreat. He is a warm and inspiring Friar and speaker. You may remember him from last year's retreat.

**Formation Directors, Ministers are especially encouraged to attend.
All OFS members are welcomed!**

- **Date:** June 26-28, 2026
- **Where:** Priest Field Retreat Center, 403D Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV
- **Cost:** Private Room - \$325.00 Shared Room - \$295.00 Daytripper (Saturday only) - \$100.00

Please note that a freewill offering will be collected at the retreat for Fr. Jude Winkler.

Registration Deadline is June 13th.

Register at this site: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAAA72EAA994-62604722-20268/>

Electronic payments can be made in full or the \$100 deposit. To confirm your reservation a \$100 non-refundable deposit must be paid by the deadline.

If you are unable to make an electronic payment, mark "Pay Later" on your registration and send your check:

Payable to: St. Margaret of Cortona OFS Region

Mail to: Randy Bender, OFS, Regional Treasurer

135 Poe Hill Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630-7650

For assistance or more information contact: Tom White, OFS, Regional Formation Director

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