

The Angelus

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
August 16, 2026



Minister: Tom McGrath
Vice-Minister: Portia Fiesta
Formation Director: Carmencita Fiesta
Secretary: Ingrid Roberts
Treasurer: Michaelle Sylla
Counselors: John Di Benedetto, Aurea Roland and
Delia Sylla
Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether
Advisor: Michael Oliver

August Gathering Agenda

Opening Prayers - page 35 in the Ritual book;
page 57 in the new version

Business

- Welcome new visitors
- Count of those attending September picnic

Formation

- St. Bonaventure – Carmencita
- Gospel to Life – Susan

Food and Fellowship

Liturgy of the Hours - Evening Prayer

- 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Closing Prayers - Page 36 in the Ritual book;
page 59 in the new version

Minister's Message

This month began with the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels at Portiuncula, our fraternity feast day. It also has a universal celebration with the Pardon of Assisi. I hope we all obtained the indulgence!



or September, we have decided to participate in the picnic at the Shrine of St. Anthony. This month we need a count of those who will attend. Additionally, we need to plan how we will get there. Car pools have not been easy in recent memory. Please be sure to let us know if you can drive and how many people you can take.

Peace! May God bless you all.

Tom

"Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing."

Spiritual Assistant's Message August 2026

We continue our look into the work, “Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition” by John V. Kluse. In today’s article, we take a look at how the Tradition addresses the environmental issue in dealing with the harm of creation, another of Jesu’s expression of love for us.

Francis saw the physical world as good. His own approach to and physical understanding of creation has much to teach us. But some of us today, as well as some during Francis’s time do not believe so. During Francis’s time, a group called the Cathars held that the physical world was evil and emphasized humanity’s spiritual nature. Even today, there are people of some religious faiths that deem physical creation as a threat to our spiritual well-being. Some others would argue that the physical world is irrelevant and that all that matters is our spiritual well-being and spending an eternity with God. But Francis saw the goodness in the physical as well as the spiritual.

Francis’s outlook on creation is most explicitly portrayed through, “The Cantic of the Creatures”, a prayer set to song he wrote almost a year before the end of his life and almost totally blind. The cantic shows three basic points in his understanding of creation:

- 1) A belief that God is to be encountered through the beauty of creation
- 2) A sense of interconnectedness with the other parts of creation

- 3) An awareness of creation’s inherent worth apart from its usefulness to humankind

The cantic demonstrates perhaps most importantly how Francis saw the world through eyes that allowed him to see the real beauty, depth, and goodness of creation, all of which was a reflection of God’s own goodness, beauty and love. In this respect, the cantic shows how Francis encountered God through the spender of creation. As an example, Francis indicates his encounter with God through creation when he states that Brother Sun bears a resemblance to God. Francis shows us that just as we can learn something of an artist through his work, we can learn something about God from His work of art: all of creation. This is known as a “sacramental” worldview which holds that God can be encountered through physical creation. A sacrament is something through which God is revealed to us and, thus, we encounter God. All of creation was a sacrament for Francis. It was a means by which he could encounter the love of the Creator.

The Cantic of the Creatures, besides demonstrating his sacramental worldview, also indicated to us the degree to which he saw his interrelatedness to all of creation. We as Franciscans are very familiar with this We’ll talk about this next month.

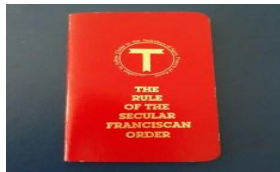
Mike

Happy Birthday

August 4 – Cheryl Goers
August 12 – Tom McGrath
August 12 – Lillian Soriano
August 17 – Delia Sylla
August 24 – Aurea Roland

and Profession Anniversaries!

None



Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order Chapter Three: Life In Fraternity

Article 25.

Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, all the brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means. Local fraternities should contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.

A friendly Secular Franciscan reminder!

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

Phone: 301-873-7883

Email: jsd20853@aol.com

Daily 3 p.m. Zoom Prayer Group continues

The Zoom prayer group continues to meet daily from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The prayers include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, a meditation, the rosary and Evening Prayer.

You are welcome to join whenever you are able. The login is the same as used for the fraternity gatherings.

Meeting ID: 828 0925 8870

Password: 898216

Phone number: 301-715-8592

Pope Leo's August prayer intention:

For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Apostolates Corner



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.

In addition, your prayer needs can be shared in the daily Zoom prayer gathering at 3 p.m. Finally, feel free to submit names to the group each month for prayer support.

Treasurer's Report

6/01/2026 – 6/30/2026

Bank Statement:

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,696.79
Contributions	275.00
Expenses	230.00
Service charge	7.58
Ending Balance	\$ 1,734.21
Available Balance	\$ 1,644.21

Outstanding (uncleared) checks:

Poor Clares	\$ 90.00
-------------	----------

Expenses include:

Spiritual Assistant (2077)	\$ 50.00
Amazon Relief (2074)	90.00
Poor Clares (2076)	90.00
Michael Huether (2077)	90.00

The Angelus

If you are not able to receive *the Angelus* by email, it can be mailed to you. You will need to provide Tom with **stamped (Forever Stamps), self-addressed #10 business envelopes** for the mailing. (Perhaps, 6 or 12 at a time.) No other size will work.

Alternatively, send Tom \$20 and he will provide and address the envelopes and post them for 12 months.

Tom McGrath, ofs
3200 N Leisure World Blvd Apt 110
Silver Spring MD 20906

Phone: 240-688-7817