



"THE FLOWERS OF ST. FRANCIS"

THE POPE ST. JOHN XXIII SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY
Davidsonville, Maryland



Jubilee Year of St. Francis – January 10, 2026 – January 10, 2027

"Recalling St. Francis' Witness of Peace and Humility"



"TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI" OCTOBER 3, 2026



Welcome to Our Fraternity's New Spiritual Advisor Brother Timothy Rubeling, OFM CAP

On Wednesday, September 3, 2026, Brother Timothy Rubeling, OFM, CAP, was introduced at our monthly Fraternity Meeting as our new Spiritual Advisor, succeeding our Fraternity's first Spiritual Advisor, Brother Michael Meza, OFM Cap., who was instrumental in Canonically establishing Pope St. John XXIII Secular Franciscan Fraternity in October 2019, and who entered seminary in Massachusetts in mid-August. Brother Rubeling stated that he is one of ten children. His oldest brother is a Diocesan priest, and his oldest sister a nun. He is in his 8th year in Formation and took his final vows this year! He has lived in many places, enjoys philosophy, theology, reading, poetry, and being outdoors. This is his first assignment as a Spiritual Advisor, and he thanked our Fraternity for the welcome he has received, and is excited to get to know and guide us!



SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

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Our MINISTER'S MUSINGS

by

Ann Marie Pessagno, OFS

Mary Always Points Us to Her Son

I don't think that it is a secret to any of you that I have a very strong devotion to Our Mother Mary! She has absolutely guided me in times of great distress, and walked with me on my paths of immense joy. I turn to her always to carry me to Her Son. **Father Shadrick Mokum**, in our May ongoing formation, reminded us that Mary is the mother of the Church, the new Eve as Christ is the new Adam, and through Christ, we inherit grace and forgiveness. Her role in our faith is that she

is the Mother of Jesus, Mother of the Church, our Mother. **Article nine of Our Secular Franciscan Order states that we Secular Franciscans should express our ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently. What a gift and blessing for each of us!**

I recently returned from a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in August with Barbara Henry and Joe O'Dea. It was a terrific joy to share this holy and sacred place with them as Catholics and as Secular Franciscans. The people of Medjugorje are beyond grateful to the Franciscans for saving the Church there during the Communist regime and for helping to rebuild after the war. I can't tell you how proud I feel to know that our Brothers gave their lives and hearts for their faith in this special place. This was another pilgrimage filled with so many graces and blessings. We are reminded that Our Mother asks us to live the five stones faithfully – **daily prayer from the heart, including four mysteries of the rosary; frequent Eucharist as often as possible; Confession monthly; daily Scripture, and a Bible placed in a prominent place in the home; and fasting Wednesday and Friday on bread and water!** Sounds easy – but difficult to do and consistently practice! She asks us to be persistent!

We had an amazing group of nineteen pilgrims on this trip. Mary only asks that we come with open hearts and She will give us what Her Son wants for us. **Included in this group were five young adults.** I often can be critical of our youth in today's world, wondering what has happened to their faith! **These five young adults were on fire with the Holy Spirit!** I was in awe of their love of Jesus and their complete devotion to Mary. They openly talked about their faith and they lived it! **I was so pleased when they were invited to an Apparition with Ivan (a visionary).** It was an amazing gift of grace and mercy for all of them as Our Mother prayed over them and their intentions that they presented to Her to carry to Her Son. The joy and look on their faces when they returned is something I will always hold deeply in my heart!

I invite you to always turn to Our Mother Mary. She will guide and lead you. Keep your rosary on your person always as your armor when you need to battle in this world of ours. Her cry is always peace and love.... Let's prayerfully join forces with her always.....

"We can never give her more honor than the Father gave Her – but the greatest honor I can give Her is to imitate Her total submission to God and His will. Such devotion to Her is the clearest sign of our vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order"

- St. Francis of Assisi (Article 9)

Mary Queen of Peace Pray for Us!



Father Shadrick Mokum



**Thomas Cosgrove on
Mount Krizevac (Cross
Mountain)**



Our VICE MINISTER'S MUSINGS by *Joe O'Dea, OFS*

Medjugorje - The Setting Behind The Story and What We're To Do

I once thought the Blessed Mother's appearances **anywhere** were very nice - holy visitations from heaven - to give us hope! That is a part of it. **The larger part I believe is that the love of God is so critically important for us to understand, and for us to give each other, that she still comes to us to convey that message for as long as it takes to save as many of God's precious people as he can through her.** Heaven cries out for us to repent and turn to God. He loves all of us and wants us to treat each other with that love – including the person who has been the cruelest to us! I believe I learned that being unkind to someone or returning an evil for an evil has far greater consequences than we realize!

I never heard anyone talk about what was going on in Yugoslavia when the Blessed Mother first appeared - the heavily controlled practice of faith and difficult life in a communist country was the setting! **Mirjana Soldo**, in her book **"My Heart Will Triumph"**, tells us "In the chaotic days after WWII, the communists were eager to seize power and impose their atheistic ideologies on the people of Yugoslavia. To them, religion was more than a mere annoyance; given the strong faith of the people, it was a clear obstacle to their plans." ... For communism to flourish, they had to silence the priests. As Stalin once said, "Death is the solution to all problems. No man - no problem."¹

Our Lady told the visionaries, **"What I started in Fatima, I will complete in Medjugorje"**.²

After the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in 1914, violence erupted across Europe, and nearly 17 million people died in just a few years. Pope Benedict XV wrote a Pastoral Letter to Mary, a devout appeal from the whole earth... "that her most tender and benign solicitude may be moved and the peace we ask for be obtained for our agitated world." May 5, 1917.³

The Blessed Mother appeared in Fatima just days later on May 13, 1917. Her message, "Pray the Rosary every day, to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war."⁴ She also asked the visionaries to tell the Pope to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart, and that would stop the errors of communism from spreading around the world. The consecration didn't happen for over 64 years later, and the errors spread to Russia, China, Poland, Cuba, and Yugoslavia.⁵

After the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II on the very anniversary of the first apparition of Fatima, May 13, 1981, and before he could consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, he wrote an "Act of Entrustment" "... "Oh Mother. May there dawn for everyone the time of peace and freedom, the time of truth of justice and of hope" June 7, 1981.⁶

Within days, on June 24, 1981, the Blessed Mother appeared in Medjugorje to the six visionaries. So, when Our Lady told us that Medjugorje would be the fulfillment of Fatima and that her heart would triumph, it was a message of **hope, not gloom**.⁷ In one of her earliest messages, Our Lady told us, "Prayer and fasting can stop wars and change the laws of nature." ... The rosary is an especially powerful prayer.⁸

A communist government inevitably takes control of everything – education,⁹ healthcare, the economy, childcare, manufacturing and distribution of goods, and the end of rights to free speech and freedom to practice religion. There is no room for God in communism. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels taught that religion is "the opiate of the masses"¹⁰.

Our Lady also tells us - "Do not be deceived." That is a very familiar passage throughout the Bible. Communism gains a foothold by cloaking itself as socialism, the government promising to provide for everyone's needs - it builds the picture of a utopian society, the promise of equal things for everyone. Shortly after, it always ends up in equal poverty and misery for everyone, and huge death tolls to the masses who oppose it in any way.

Looking at the bigger picture of Medjugorje, **the story at Fatima ends with the Blessed Mother's plea to Consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart to stop the spread of Communism.** The story of Medjugorje opens up in the atheistic communist country of Yugoslavia. By 1990, the communist government there is defeated by prayers.¹¹

The Blessed Mother continues to appear 45 years later. She said, "The way to peace leads solely and only through love." On page 232 of her book, Mirjana says, "But peace is never around the corner. It's right in front of you and to find it, you simply have to get on your knees and ask".

The Blessed Mother knows the diabolical origin and character of communism, and that's why Our Lady warns us to **pray, fast and love each other NOW** - to defeat it and all evil! **When we're free, we can all care for the less fortunate.** Communism makes everyone **equally poor** so that nobody is very capable of helping anyone, and all live in fear. **Freedom is from God, and so is free will!**

All the hopeful who go to Medjugorje experience not just the love and peace of our Lord and His Blessed Mother, but the peace from other people there who are all enjoying that peace and love from heaven! **It seems to me we are not to come home and take that peace from there for ourselves only, but to use that peace to help restore peace to others in our daily lives and keep spreading that peace so Her Heart will Triumph!**

*All notes come from the book **"My Heart Will Triumph"** by **Mirjana Soldo**. (Catholic Shop Publishing, 2016)

pp 37¹ pp 145² pp 147³ pp 147⁴ pp 153⁵ pp 154⁶ pp 148⁷ pp 148⁸ pp 19⁹ pp 19¹⁰ pp 236¹¹

ONGOING FRATERNITY FORMATION

Farewell to Brother Michael Meza OFM Cap by *Ann Marie Pessagno, OFS*



Our beloved **Spiritual Assistant, Brother Michael Meza, OFM Cap**, entered seminary in Massachusetts in mid-August. **Ron Van Nest, OFS**, our Fraternity's first minister, thanked him for being so **instrumental in Canonically establishing Pope St. John XXIII Secular Franciscan Fraternity in October 2019**. Without him we might not exist. We have been blessed to have him serve as our Spiritual Assistant from the beginning to lead and guide us and share his wisdom with us. We will miss him dearly, and will keep him in our prayers! The Fraternity presented him with a gift and a small donation for him. He has always been called to the priesthood. It has been a long journey of seventeen years to get to this point. He has always been obedient and accepted the will of God. Brother Michael has a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother and knows that She has interceded for him. He will spend the next three years in the diaconate, and the last year in the priesthood. In four years, he will have his Master's from John XXIII National Seminary.

Brother Michael encouraged us to stay on our journey as Secular Franciscans – live the Gospel and do what the Lord is asking us to do! Keep learning about the Lord, continue to ask questions. Ask others if you can pray for them, and try always to spread the love of God. Reach out to young people and encourage vocations. Be open to God's grace and look to the Gospels for strength and guidance!



Kathie Taylor gets a blessing from Brother Mike and one of his last official acts with our Fraternity!





CARING for CREATION

by

Chris Gordon, OFS



THE BOX TURTLE IN YOUR YARD MAY BE OLDER THAN YOUR HOUSE!!!

It can live past a hundred and never leaves a patch a few hundred yards across. In about six weeks it digs into the leaf litter under a hedge and stays until April, and if that ground freezes solid, so does the turtle, and it thaws and walks away!

Ours, we call **Tom**, shows up in the yard a couple of times a year. There are passageways on either end of the yard, under the fence so he/she can move freely. We put out water and figure they know what to eat.

Of course, **Maddie** and **Sophie** are the first to let me know that they're in the yard somewhere. They'll be lots of barking as I rush to follow them. Don't wanna cause any unnecessary stress to the turtle!

PS: I have lots of pictures of turtles in the backyard and as always, there is a struggle to decide which pictures to share with you, but here's two. Finally, **prayers out to all the new office holders of our Fraternity**. May God's blessings guide them on their journey with you!

Be kind to yourself, and when you can, help another!



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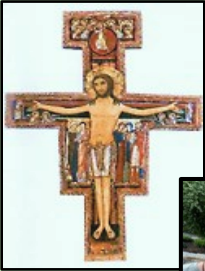
SEEDS OF FAITH by *Nina Teti, OFS*

I want to thank each and everyone for the prayers, visits, masses and kind thoughts! Your encouragement has lifted my spirits, and the end of my rehab journey has been finally determined. . .September 15! After seeing the surgeon. . .going home! During these days, I have been transported in reality and unreality! Days go by very quickly. I will always need a walker and have accepted that cross. **The cause of my joy are the gifts received!**

Dear Sisters and Brothers: From my Daily Devotional "**The Power of Perseverance**" - "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because, having stood the trial, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him" **James 1:12**. Continued prayers are welcome. . .new challenges await me. . .My unending prayer is:

**"Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus, I surrender myself to you. . .Take care of everything . . .
I have made no choices. . .My Eternal Father has patterned my path. . .
So, when troubled, Be Not Afraid. . .His amazing grace lessens the anxiety. . ."**

LIVING OUR FRANCISCAN CHARISM by *Penny Jones, OFS* **St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Retreat** **(June 5-7, 2026)**



My Personal Experience

The Lord works in mysterious ways. I did not know anyone else was going, but was able to share my experience and room with Elizabeth. We are so Blessed. I signed up for this retreat as 1 of the 2 available in the month of June. **It was by far the most wonderful retreat I have ever been on.** The food was amazing... **Father Stan Fortuna, CFR**, was funny, talented and "On Fire", **speaking fervently about Brother Sun and Sister Moon - referring often to Papa Francesco!** Refreshing is all I can say - **I have never heard anyone speak as though this was their life and they loved every moment!** He has musical talents and joy that rocked the room. He is never a dull moment. In Mass, he would say Mass, and when it was time for music, he would move to the piano and play the song, then back to the altar!

What I learned was just as enjoyable. We had several really great speakers with stories of how they were brought to the Franciscan way of life. Another great segment was when different Fraternity leaders spoke about the work that their Fraternity does. It was so inspiring and **everything was touched upon from each rule to how to live each rule!**

We are here to serve and to desire the spirit of the Lord - holding nothing back. **Charism is a gift and when we don't use it, we lose it.** Let the brothers endeavor to have what is to be desired above all things!

Many references were made to **Pope John Paul II - "The Wisdom"**, the great Father and son of the church. **Proclaim that evil is at the heart of man. The door of the heart can be opened by the death on a cross.** That is real wisdom!

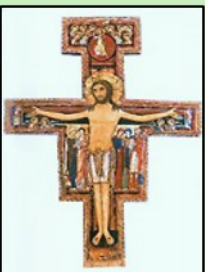
A Few Tidbits

Be A Good Novice

Live the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Mary is the Cause of our Joy

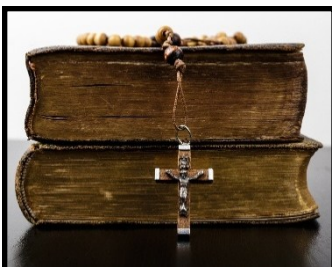
Spirit of Francis



Please continue to pray for Saria, Ariana, Aidyn, Kirsti and Shawn Dickey as they recover and heal from the loss of their home on September 6, 2026, due to fire. May our Lord and Lady warmly embrace them all!

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His countenance toward you and give you peace." *Numbers 6:24-26*





Liturgy of the Hours - June 3, 2026

by *Deacon Nick Pitocco*

Deacon Nick spoke about The Liturgy of the Hours as the **daily prayer of the church**. It shapes the rhythm of our spiritual life. **Liturgy of the Hours follows the same hours and prayers of Jesus**. It can be hard to make it a routine, but with **practice and intention, it can become the center of our lives**. Faith is more than habits or routines. The Holy

Spirit awakens something in our hearts. We yearn to know Jesus more intimately.

Liturgy of the Hours are prayers that are 3000 years old. Jesus prayed more than the fixed hours. His whole life was permeated with prayer. Prayer is built on relationships. St. Benedict, in the 6th century, arranged the Hours into a form similar to what we have today. Pope Pius X standardized the Breviary. Vatican II permitted the laity to pray as well as the professed. 1975 was the last revision. On **Ash Wednesday 2027 a new Catholic American Bible and Liturgy of the Hours are scheduled for release**. The major Hours of the Liturgy are: the **Morning and the Evening prayers** (these are the bookends of our day). The **Office of the Readings** are said early in the morning. Morning (**Lauds**) are at sunrise (5:30 – 8 am). Evening (**Vespers**) are said 5:30 – 8 pm. The minor hours are Mid-Morning (**Terce** at 9 am), Midday (**Sext** at noon) when Christ was crucified, Afternoon (**None** at 3 pm) when Christ died and Night (**Compline** at 9-11 pm).

Liturgy of the Hours deserves the same preparation as Mass. Pause, create space for God to speak to us. Pray slowly and intentionally, savor it, do not check it off the list. Pray Liturgy of the hours to sanctify the day to encounter the living God. Personal prayer is where love grows. Pray unceasingly, constantly focused on God. Anchor the day to live in Christ!

Liturgy of the Hours is not a burden; it is a choice to let Christ shape our day - to grow into it. The more we give Him, the more He gives us. He will not be outdone in generosity. Liturgy of the Hours completes our prayer life. Through it, we are gathered into one voice with Christ. Jesus prays in and through us – His body. We are not praying alone. We are a tapestry of praise. Begin simply. Offer one prayer, one psalm. Let Him meet you there and **let the rhythm of the church become the rhythm of your heart. Every moment of prayer is a moment with Jesus!**

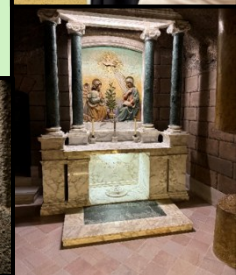


Visit, Tour and Talk at

Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington DC - July 11, 2026

by *Ann Marie Pessagno, OFS*

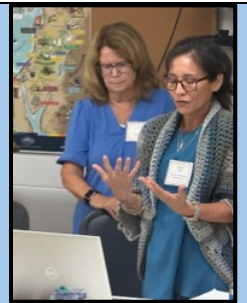
We started the day with our Fraternity meeting followed by a **Celebration of the Eucharist with Father David Grenier, OFM**. A guided tour of the Monastery followed. Father David Grenier, OFM gave a talk about the work of the Franciscan friars in the Holy Land. He stated that the work is difficult, given the added pressures of the war, and that they have limited resources. He stated that they work in the parishes and the shrines to build up the Kingdom, and that they serve all people that are in need! He related many stories of people from different cultures united in community to help one another. They have schools, music programs and many outreach ministries. He asked us to keep them in prayer as they continue their work and for peace in the region!



September 2026 Ongoing Formation

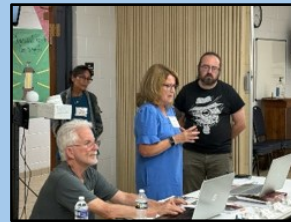
Regional Retreat Highlights “Be the Light”

Ann Marie Pessagno, OFS; Barbara Henry, OFS, Shawn Dickey, OFS



Ann Marie Pessagno, OFS, Barbara Henry, OFS and Shawn Dickey, OFS attended the **“Be the Light” Regional Retreat** the weekend of **June 26, 2026 to June 28, 2026**. Shawn Dickey, OFS attended the **Saturday Session June 27, 2026**.

This retreat was led by **Father Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.** To walk in the light, we must walk in the gospels, see Jesus in everyone, and pray for them. Every little action is important, whether a smile, an opening of the door etc. We are people of service to be doers in the community, and share the Word as God wants all to be saved. No one person is self-sufficient, and helping others helps you get to heaven. Purgatory is not a punishment but purification!



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Listening to God’s Call by *Thomas Cosgrove*

Thomas Cosgrove came to speak with us about **his personal walk with the Lord!**

Raised Catholic at Holy Family, he attended parochial schools throughout grade school. He then went to South River High School, where he was exposed to many different groups, beliefs and ideas. He then went to Towson University after graduation, with no real plans for his future, other than probably following his dad into the business world. Somewhat of a loner, he had no real friends, even though he joined a fraternity and had many new experiences. **It was in college that he lost his spiritual structure and had no one to answer questions of faith!** During this time, Thomas despaired, his grades fell, goals were abandoned, and eventually, his parents pulled him out of school. He felt he did not deserve success and knew no purpose. **Two years ago, his parents asked him to go to Medjugorje with them, which was during the time of an International Youth Conference.** He saw no reason to go other than a trip to Europe; yet he felt there

must be something there for him! **It was there that he felt at home, and received a yearning for life! God made the irredeemable parts of his life come together, and he was called to work with God to repair his sinful ways!** Thomas had never experienced such power and despair; **he surrendered and humbled himself with the other youth to give themselves to God.** This year, he returned to Medjugorje, and was again humbled by God. He knows He will call each of us in unexpected ways, but has seen major growth in his faith, and is leading a young adult Bible study. **He truly spoke with conviction from the heart!**





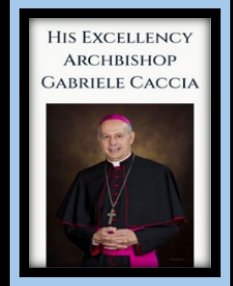
Easter of St. Francis

Rekindle the Flame

21st Quinquennial of the Secular Franciscan Order

by *Penny Jones, OFS*

The invite came from an unlikely source. A person I met at the Charism retreat was going to the Quinquennial and looking for someone to ride with her. (Holy Spirit intervention)!



July 29

I met with this person who is a flute player, and who was asked to play the flute at a mass. She ended up playing the flute at **all of the masses!** We spent the entire ride getting to know one another, and the more we talked, the more we bonded. We arrived at the event just after the start of the Celebration of the Eucharist.

July 30

Brother Bill Short, OFM is currently the Director Collegium S. Bonaventurae-Frati editori di Quaracchi Collegio S. Isidoro in Rome, Italy. He was professed in 1978. He is also the author of **Poverty and Joy**. He also co-edited the three-volume series: **Francis of Assisi: Early Documents**.

“Bring Gospel To Life”

July 31

Darlene Pryds, PhD is a laywoman exploring Franciscan Spirituality since age 18. She serves the Franciscan lay community offering workshops, retreats and lectures on **Spirituality at the End of Life**. She volunteers as a Hospice caregiver.

“Service Project and Other Activities”

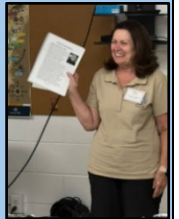
August 1

Father Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv. is a Professor Emeritus at Saint Louis University, where he had served for 45 years. He also served as co-editor of the three-volume series, **Francis of Assisi: Early Documents**, and as a co-editor of the first three volumes of **Studies in Early Franciscan Sources**.

“Go Make A Difference”

We also had evening activities in which I did not participate, in order to be considerate of my driver. All of the talks were recorded and can be found at: <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/updates-from-the-q-july-29th-through-august-1st-2026/>

Thank you for the opportunity to bring the Q home to you!



FORMATION FORUM by *Jeanne Catrow, OFS*

At all times and seasons, in every country and place, every day and all day,
we must have a true and humble faith. --(St. Francis of Assisi)

Happy Fall to all our brothers and sisters. In this season of the year and the season of our lives, all Glory is given to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!



It is with faith filled humility, and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that our Fraternity is pleased to announce the upcoming **Profession of our Candidates on October 24, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. at Holy Family Church. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** In true Franciscan spirit, there will be a reception to follow in Unity Hall. Be sure to sign up through Sign-Up Genius if you are able to contribute to the reception. **Sonia Balboni, Genevieve DiUlio, Jean Schaefer, and Kathie Taylor** have been faithful to their call and discernment, and are humbly excited to profess to Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity. Please keep them in your prayers!

Our candidates, **Teresa Love, Eric Love, and Ed Muir** are faithfully moving forward in their Journey to profession. They continue to study the way of St. Francis, and emulate his charism in the world! All of these candidates have shared some challenges, but they support each other, and have **reflected on the joys of being Franciscan brothers and sisters!**

And our new Inquirers – **Sal Sylvester and Helen Brown** -- were welcomed into our Fraternity in August – and are working hard to learn what it means to be a brother and sister in Francis! They continue to say “yes” to anything asked of them, and have already begun to “**rebuild the Church**” by reaching out to the marginalized. Please continue to pray for their discernment.

Be at peace, my brothers and sisters!

FRATERNITY SNAPSHOTS

(ongoing Fraternity activities)

We are here for you!



Our future Franciscan, **Dr. Sal Salvester**, is often the **Canter at the Sunday Masses**. He also **sings at the Liturgy of the Hours at 4:30 pm on zoom**. Feel free to join a dozen or more of us for 20 minutes on zoom any day, for a daily reflection of our faith. **Meeting Code:** 88305033327 **Password:** 657804 (submitted by Chris Gordon).



Michael O'Rourke (USCCB) speaking on issues affecting the Catholic Church and society as they relate to our Franciscan charism.



Elizabeth Brownlee, Jean Schafer, Ann Marie Pessagno and Penny Jones of our Fraternity serve lunch for 350 homeless folks at the **Franciscan Center in Baltimore** on 9/14/26. Feel free to join them.



Little Portion Farm Ministry

Year of St. Francis Invitation

In January, Pope Leo XIV proclaimed this year (January 10, 2026 – January 10, 2027) **the Year of St. Francis** to commemorate the **800th anniversary of the saint's death (October 3, 1226)**. In his letter making this Declaration, Pope Leo XIV wrote:

"The Franciscan vision of peace is not limited to the relations between human beings, but also embraces the whole of creation. Francis, who calls the sun 'brother' and the moon 'sister', who recognizes in every creature a reflection of divine beauty, reminds us that peace must be extended to the entire family of Creation. This insight resonates with particular urgency in our time, when our common home is threatened and cries out under exploitation. Peace with God, peace among human beings, and with creation are inseparable dimensions of a single call to universal reconciliation."

As a Franciscan ministry, we invite you to consider scheduling a service day here with us to commemorate this special year! Bring your family, friends, or colleagues and join us in our efforts to care for the poor and our small corner of creation. To learn more about volunteering and group retreat opportunities, visit our volunteer page or reach out to Kelly Neale at kelly@littleportionfarm.org. (submitted by Elizabeth Brownlee).

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

Tony Mazzuco	June 20, 1976		Chris Gordon	February 1, 2020
Jeanne Catrow	May 8, 1979		Ann Marie Pessagno	February 1, 2020
John Cobis	June 12, 2005		Nina Teti	February 1, 2020
Kathy Brady	September 17, 2016		Eugene (Duke) Jones	February 26, 2022
Kathy Duffy	September 17, 2016		Joe O'Dea	February 26, 2022
Judy Hool	September 17, 2016		Theresa Tucker	February 26, 2022
Sandy Horvath	September 17, 2016		Penny (Joyce) Jones	May 13, 2023
David Littleton	September 17, 2016		Patricia Sullivan	May 13, 2023
John Treichel	September 17, 2016		Elizabeth Brownlee	June 28, 2025
Ron Van Nest	September 17, 2016		Shawn Dickey	June 28, 2025
Marie Waleryszak	September 17, 2016		Barbara Henry	June 28, 2025
Laura Benso	November 17, 2018		Michael O'Rourke	June 28, 2025
Mary Rohde	November 17, 2018			

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Marie Waleryszak	November 1		Ron Van Nest	November 7
Judy Hool	November 2		Eric Love	November 17
Elizabeth Brownlee	November 3		Kathie Sheats Taylor	January 5
Sonia Balboni	November 7		Teresa Love	January 27
Jeanne Catrow	November 7		Tony Mazzuco	January 30

TREASURY TIDBITS – AUGUST 2026

December 31, 2025 Ending Balance Brought Forward			\$8,226.28
January - August 2026 Deposits		\$7,075.00	
January - August 2026 Withdrawals	\$6,383.41		
August 31, 2026 Ending Balance			\$8,917.87

Rule 25: The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

Regarding expenses necessary for the life of our 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 higher Fraternity councils. **Thank you for your generous donations! Pax et bonum!**

SAVE THE DATES

Blessing of the Animals	Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 11 AM at Holy Family Catholic Church in Davidsonville, MD
TRANSITUS of St. Francis of Assisi	Saturday, October 3, 2026 at Franciscan Monastery in Washington, DC or at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, MD at 7 PM
Franciscan Council Elections	October 7, 2026 at monthly Franciscan Fraternity Meeting at Holy Family Catholic Church in Davidsonville, MD
Franciscan Professions	October 24, 2026 at 10 AM at Holy Family Catholic Church in Davidsonville, MD
Franciscan Sponsored Appetizers	November 7, 2026 after 5 PM Mass at Holy Family Church in Davidsonville, MD
Winter Relief Franciscan Dinner	December 5, 2026 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Davidsonville MD
Franciscan Fraternity Christmas Gathering	Sunday, December 13, 2026 from 1-5 PM at the home of Kathy Brady
Live Manger	Saturday, December 19, 2026 after 5 PM Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church in Davidsonville, MD
Franciscan Commuter Retreat	January 2nd and 3rd, 2027 at the Shrine of St. Anthony. Presented by Father Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

Attention: If you are interested in learning more about Secular Franciscans and our Franciscan ministry of living out the Gospel in our daily secular lives, or attending any of our monthly Secular Franciscan Fraternity meetings to learn more about us here at Holy Family Catholic Church, please contact our **Minister**, Ann Marie Pessagno, OFS (ampessagno@yahoo.com) or our **Vice Minister**, Joe O'Dea, OFS (remaincalmtoday@yahoo.com). All are welcome!

