November 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

Rite of Permanent Commitment to the Gospel Life within Mass for Kully Dooley

Saturday, November 7, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
St. Ann Catholic Church
Room 105 (under the Church)
5300 10th St N, Arlington, VA 22205

Followed by dinner at A Modo Mio
5555 Langston Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22207

Please, send RSVP to Sita Chakrawarti, OFS by Wednesday, November 4, 2026 to be included in the reservation for the dinner.

We are collecting Christmas gifts for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program on Saturday *see page 6 for the shopping list*

No Meeting – Sunday, November 8, 2026!

All those who love the Lord with their whole heart, with their whole mind, with their whole strength (Mk 12:30) and love their neighbor as themselves, who hate their bodies with their vices and sins (Mt 22:39), who receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who produce worthy fruits of Penance.

Beginning of the Earlier Exhortation of Saint Francis to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance

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Minister's Reflection

First of all, congratulations to Kully Dooley, OFS, on his profession!

November is the month when we have both Thanksgiving and the end of the liturgical year/beginning of Advent. Thus, it is a great time to take stock of the past year and look to the coming one. What are we grateful for, what do we regret? What do we want to do better? What blessings do we hope for? What new beginnings do we want? What do we want to see an end to?

For many of us, this has been a year of loss. Some have faced major changes in lifestyle and/or relocation. No matter what benefit and advantages these changes may bring, they also bring upheaval. We may pray for successful transition and happiness in our new circumstances.

Some of us have lost loved ones this year. Even if we pray and hope that our loved one is now with God after a long illness, their loss leaves a hole in our lives. Each of us grieves in our own way, and recovers in our own time. We pray for consolation in the new year.

However, there have also been blessings along the way. I am grateful for my fraternities and all of my Franciscan brothers and sisters. They surround me with love, and I learn so much from them about how to be a better Franciscan. Music has provided me with both challenges and successes, as well as being a perennial source of joy and an opportunity to praise Our Lord. I have friends, responsibilities (Yes, I like challenges and responsibility.), a good home, and, last but hardly least, faith.

Kully makes his profession this month. As he recites his promises, let us reflect on our own profession. Let us ponder what drew us to St Francis, and what keeps us here. May this ceremony bring us renewal in our lives as Seculars.

This includes reflecting on our regrets for things we have done or have not done. We are blessed to have the sacrament of reconciliation, which allows us to clean our consciences and start anew. We can come to the Lord in penance and conversion, as our Rule calls us to do, both in our daily lives and in the formal sacrament of confession.

At the end of this month, we have the end of the liturgical year and the beginning of Advent, the season in which we prepare for the gift of Our Lord's coming to earth as a baby, the greatest gift of all time. This was one of Francis' favorite seasons. Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas party, when we can celebrate together our fraternity and our faith.

As both liturgical and calendar years draw to a close, may we give thanks that the birth of the baby Jesus is a light that defies the darkness of winter, a light that will never go out. May St Francis and St Clare intercede for us, that we may follow His light ever more truly in the new beginnings that God offers us. Amen

Pax et bonum, Sita

Professions

11/12/1999
Hilaria Escobal (St. Anthony of Padua)

11/13/2021
Patrick Birello (St. Patrick)
Bernadette Lozano (Pope St. Pius X)

Birthdays of the Month

November
None

December
Mary Ann Caruso (21st)

Necrology

Joann T Collins – November 1997
Evelyn M Kaelin – November 1998
Felicima (Fely) Guillerrmo – November 2015
Dcn Daniel Resendes – November 17, 2016
Sally Dimond – November 21, 2019

Prayer Intentions

For…

- *The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.*
- *Vocations to our Fraternity and all branches of the Franciscan family.*
- *The victims of violence, the conversion of the violent and the conversion of all sinners.*
- *All those who travel by sea, air, and land.*
- *The sick, the suffering, and the captive.*
- *The elderly and for our elderly parents and their caregivers.*
- *Peace in the world and in our country and communities particularly in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan and where there is violence.*
- *Poor, hungry, lonely, homeless, unemployed, the dying and those with no one to pray for them.*
- *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.*
- *Protection of Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics and all Christians in peril.*
- *All youth in the world that they may experience exemplars like Ss. Pier Giorgio and Carlo Acutis that lead them to Christ.*
- *Healing of the schism with the SSPX.*

- Jan Martin's recovery from injuries from a fall.
- *Grace Coipuram, OFS*
- Angela Gill, OFS who is undergoing chemo for cancer and her husband Anthony who has cysts on his pancreas.
- *healing for April's back, of her legs, and knees (Baker's cyst).*
- Patrick Birello's back and leg issues.
- Ralph Palasek's recovery from the aftereffects of a serious infection.

- *Alex, who had surgery*
- *Peter and Dana whose house burned down and who lost their pets in the fire*
- *Katherine, who has ALS*
- *Denise, who is having chemotherapy.*
- *Donald, who is in memory care*
- *Liz's friend Dan who has Parkinson's Disease.*
- *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.*
- *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.*
- *April's friend's mother, Adelaide and Christian, the grandson of Frank, the leader of her Luminaries group.*
- *Healing of Tom Funesti's cancer*

- The end of Satanism
- More Eucharistic Miracles
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.
- 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

Kully Dooley will be professed at the 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass at St. Ann's on November 7, 2026. Details on p. 1.

While we gather to celebrate Kully's profession, we will be collecting items for the Children's Holiday Party sponsored by the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program. The party is on December 11 and therefore, we cannot wait until our December meeting. The shopping list is on page 6. Gift cards may be a bit easier to handle on Saturday.

St. Francis was really excited about humility of God becoming Incarnate. May by our humility in this secular culture we bring our neighbors to Christ.

Peace and Good,
Randy

Spiritual Assistant's Corner

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO (OCTOBER 2, 1538 – NOVEMBER 3, 1584)
NOVEMBER 4

Charles Borromeo was a major figure in the Counter-Reformation of the Catholic Church during and following the Council of Trent.

He belonged to the Milanese nobility and was related to the powerful Medici family. As a layman, he devoted himself to the Church, eventually becoming cardinal-deacon and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan. Following his elder brother's death, Charles decided to be ordained a priest. Thereafter, he was consecrated bishop of Milan.

Working behind the scenes, Saint Charles deserves the credit for keeping the Council of Trent in session. He encouraged the pope to renew the Council in 1562, after it had been suspended for 10 years. In the Archdiocese of Milan, Charles reformed every phase of Catholic life among both clergy and laity.

Charles strove to provide a good example for both priests and laity. He allotted most of his income to charity, forbade himself all luxury, and imposed severe penances upon himself. He sacrificed wealth, high honors, esteem, and influence to become poor. During the plague and famine of 1576, Borromeo tried to feed 60,000 to 70,000 people daily. To do this he borrowed large sums of money that required years to repay. Whereas the civil authorities fled at the height of the plague, he stayed in the city, where he ministered to the sick and the dying, helping those in want.

Charles was a Third Order Franciscan and consciously modeled his life after St. Francis of Assisi. He also served as the Cardinal Protector of the Friars Minor.

Work and the heavy burdens of his high office began to affect Archbishop Borromeo's health, leading to his death at the age of 46.

Reflection

Saint Charles Borromeo made his own the words of Christ: "…I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35-36). Borromeo saw Christ in his neighbor and knew that charity done for the least of his flock was charity done for Christ.

Saint Charles Borromeo is a Patron Saint of:
Catechists
Catechumens
Seminarians

Gil Donahue, OFS
Spiritual Assistant, St. Thomas More Fraternity

Sayings of St. Charles Borromeo

Be sure that you first preach by the way you live.

Stay quiet with God. Do not spend your time in useless chatter.

We must meditate before, during and after everything we do. The prophet says: "I will pray, and then I will understand." This is the way we can easily overcome the countless difficulties we have to face day after day, which, after all, are part of our work. In meditation we find the strength to bring Christ to birth in ourselves and in others.



The Metro

Crowded, yet usually surprisingly peaceable … mostly. About half the people are consumed with their phones, mostly watching videos or calling someone, though a few seem to be working attentively with others bumping shoulders.

A few times people already on board will shout, “hey, don’t push … there’s no more room.” And then the pushing sometimes lets up a bit. One time, a man shouted back and pushed his way on board anyway. But mostly, people realize that if one train is crowded there is probably another just two minutes behind that will have more space.

A father with two small girls and their scooters boarded a crowded train. When too many people pushed to squeeze in, the crowd inside yelled, “Hey there are children here! Stop pushing!”

Not that everything is heavenly, far from it. But the general culture of the Metro in Rome appears to be kind, watchful on the whole and never to the last person—perhaps so that we can see the gentleness of the whole body even when a member (or several) is out of joint.

My experience on the Roman subway prompted me to think about our other experiences in large groups—maybe tempted to think only of ourselves, to push our way to get what we need, or to give up and avoid what seems pointless.

Voting, especially in national elections, we are each one voice among millions. Choosing who we buy from, our dollars are a small part of the economy. Yet it is the innumerable personal choices of so many that form the culture of the body.

For your November reflection and discussion:
* What is one situation where you are tempted to think that your input, your positive voice, your smile is drowned out and pointless?
* What is one time when you felt encouraged because someone showed kindness in an unexpected place and time?

Jerome Wolbert, ofm
Rome, Italy
jeromeofm@gmail.com

We'd love your feedback!

Gift Suggestions for Children's Holiday Party

2-4 years

Preschool remote-controlled vehicles, bath toys, wood and floor puzzles, educational toys, dress up clothes, coloring books with crayons and markers, kitchen set and play food, baby dolls (and accessories), musical toys, stuffed animals, action figures, train sets, building blocks, Play-Doh, board books, finger paint, sensory toys
Other: *Leap Frog, Little Tikes, Disney, Fisher Price Little People, Disney, Mega Blocks, Trolls, Melissa & Doug, Bluey and Baby Shark, Spider-Man Marvel Venom VS Liquid Shifter Action Figure, Glow Nice Cube NeeDoh*

5-7 years

Action figures and dolls, board games, puzzles, coloring and activity books, cars and racetracks, tool sets, dress up clothes, doctor sets, dinosaurs, remote-control cars, sleeping bags, balls and sports equipment, educational toys, age-appropriate books, drawing Supplies, Slime Kit, weaving loom kits
Other: *LEGO, Marvel and DC superheroes, Trolls, Star Wars, Furby, Minions, Hatchimals, Nerf, Disney, My Little Pony, Barbie, Doc McStuffins, Hot Wheels, Littlest Pet Shop, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Hot Wheels, Paw Patrol, Guess Who, Magnetic Tiles, Hatchimals, Squishmallows, Handheld Digital Microscope for Kids, KPop Demon Hunters, Glow Nice Cube NeeDoh*

8-10 years

Arts and crafts kits, weaving loom kits, roller skates/roller blades, board games, remote-control cars, coloring books and art supplies, bike and helmet, jewelry making kits, scooters, skateboard, sports equipment: soccer balls, basketballs, baseballs, volley balls, etc., Xbox and PS4 games, age-appropriate books, gift cards: Apple, Samsung, Game Stop, Walmart, Target, etc.,
Other: *LEGO, Star Wars, Guardians of the Galaxy, Transformers, Teenage Mutant, Ninja Turtles, X-Men, Disney, Minecraft, Guess Who etc., Squishmallows, KPop Demon Hunters, Shashibo Shape Shifting Box, Magnetic Building Sets, Slime Kit, LED Drawing Board,*

11+ Years

Gift cards: Netflix & Hulu, AMC passes, Amazon, Bath & Body Works, Ulta, Walmart, Target, Best Buy, Chipotle, Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, ect., sports equipment: soccer balls, basketballs, baseballs, volley balls, age-appropriate book, self-care items (face masks, lotion, scented slipper socks, perfume/cologne), Art supplies/drawing

Parents

Gift cards: MasterCard & Visa Gift cards, grocery stores: Safeway, Giant, Shoppers, Harris Teeter, Aldi, Lidl, Trader Joes, etc., department stores: Target, Best Buy, CVS, Kohl's, Bath and Body Works, Ulta/Sephora, Wal-Mart, Marshalls, TJ Maxx, etc., restaurants & food: local restaurants, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Dominos, Subway, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Chipotle, etc.,
Cookware and dining sets, utensils, bedding, housewares items, Purses, Wallets

DVP
Domestic Violence Program
Alexandria, Virginia
24 HOUR HOTLINE: 703-838-4911

Saints of the Month

https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-01-2023.pdf

November 3 - Bl. Helen Enselmini, Poor Clare Nun (1208-November 4, 1242)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-helen-enselmini.html

November 4 - St. Charles Borromeo, Secular Franciscan Cardinal, Protector of the Friars Minor (October 2, 1538-November 3, 1584)
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Charles-Borromeo

Bl. Teresa Manganiello, Third Order Secular (January 1, 1849-November 4, 1876)
https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-teresa-manganiello/

November 6 - Bls. Alfonso Lòpez, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs of the Civil War in Spain (Died 1934, 1936-1939)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_the_Spanish_Civil_War

Bl. Marguerite de Lorraine, Poor Clare Nun (1463-November 2, 1521)
http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09655a.htm

November 7 - St. Didacus of Alcalá, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Observant (c. 1400-November 12, 1463)
https://www.sdcatholic.org/diocese/bishops/saintdidacus.aspx

Bl. Raynier of Arezzo, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1304)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-raynier-of-arezzo.html

November 8 - Bl. John Duns Scotus, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1266-November 1308)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-duns-scotus.html

November 9 - Bl. Gabriel Ferretti, Priest, First Order (1385-November 12, 1456)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gabriel-ferretti.html

November 11 - Bl. Mary Crucifixa, Secular Franciscan Order (February 19, 1782-December 16, 1826)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-crucifixa.html

November 12 - Bl. Giovanni della Pace, Third Order Secular (1353-November 12, 1433)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-peace.html

November 14 - St. Nicholas Tavelic and Companions, Croatian Friar, Order of Friars Minor; Deodat of Aquitaine, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo, Martyrs of Palestine (c. 1340-November 14, 1391)
https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-nicholas-tavelic-and-companions

November 15 - Bl. Mary of the Passion, Founder Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (May 21, 1839-November 15, 1904)
http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20021020_marie-passion_en.html

November 17 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Secular Franciscan, Patroness of the Third Order (July 7, 1207-November 17, 1231)
http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05389a.htm

Bl. Jeanne de Signa, Third Order Regular, Hermit (1244-November 9, 1307)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-jane-of-signa.html

November 18 - Bl. Salome of Cracow, Third Order Secular (1201-November 17, 1268)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-salome-of-cracow.html

November 19 - St. Agnes of Assisi, Order of St. Clare; St. Clare's younger sister (c. 1197-November 16, 1253)
http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01213a.htm

November 19 - Bl. Salvatore Lilli and companions, Priest, First Order, Martyrs of Armenia
(June 19, 1853-November 22, 1895)
https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/armenia-martyrs-bb
November 20 - Bl. Maria Milagros Ortells Gimeno, Capuchin Poor Clare, Martyr
(November 29, 1882 - November 20, 1936)
https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/blessed-maria-milagros-ortelles-gimeno/
Bls. Paschal Fortuño Almela and Companions, First Order friars, Martyrs of Spain, d. 1936
http://www.franciscans.ie/franciscan-saints-2/#11_20
November 21 - Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/presentation-of-mary
November 24 - Commemoration of All the Deceased of the Seraphic Order
https://faustynka.livejournal.com/12261.html
November 25 - Bl. Elizabeth of Reute, Third Order Regular (November 25, 1386-November 25, 1420)
https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/elizabeth-of-reute-blessed
St. Humilis of Bisignano, Religious, Order of Friars Minor
(August 26, 1582-November 26, 1637)
https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns_lit_doc_20020519_umile_en.html
Bl. Louis Beltrame Quattrocchi (1880-1951) and Bl. Maria Corsini-Beltrame Quattrocchi
(1884-1965) Third Order Secular, first Secular Franciscan couple beatified together
http://www.savior.org/saints/corsini.htm
November 26 - St. Leonard de Port-Maurice, Priest, Order of Friars Minor
(December 20, 1676 - November 26, 1751)
http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09178c.htm
November 27 - St. Francis Anthony Fasani, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual
(August 6, 1681-November 29, 1742)
https://www.americaneedsfatima.org/Saints-Heroes/st-francis-anthony-fasani.html
November 28 - St. James de la Marche, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1391-November 28, 1476)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-james-of-the-march.html
November 29 - All Saints of the Seraphic Order - Pray the Franciscan Litany of the Saints -
https://www.franciscans.org/single-post/2018/11/29/Feast-Day-of-All-the-Saints-of-the-Franciscan-Order
November 30 - Bl. Antoine Bonfandini, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1482)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-anthony-bonfadini.html
December 2 - Bl. Mary Angela Astorch, Capuchin Poor Clare (September 1, 1592 - December 2, 1665)
https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-maria-angela-astorch/
Bl. Raphael Chylinski, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual
(January 8, 1680/90 - December 2, 1742)
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=7637
December 4 - Bl. François Galves, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, martyr (d. 1623)
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=3444
Bl. Pietro Tecelano, Third Order Secular (c. 1190-December 1289)
https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-pietro-tecelano/
December 5 - Bl. Peter of Sienna, Third Order Secular (d. December 4, 1289)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-of-siena.html

December 7 - St. Mary Joseph Rosello, Third Order Secular before founding another institute (1811-December 7, 1811)
https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-mary-joseph-rossello.html

December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord bearers
https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/solemnity-of-the-immaculate-conception-of-the-blessed-virgin-77

December 9 - Bl. Clara Isabella Fornari, Poor Clare Nun (June 25, 1697 - December 9, 1744)
https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-clara-isabella-fornari/

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A Day of Sharing Our JPIC Journey

Saturday, December 5, 2026

11:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Saint John Paul II National Shrine, Washington, DC

Leave behind all passivity and indifference. . . We cannot remain as unengaged spectators; rather, we must listen with our hearts, allow ourselves to be challenged, and become involved. Pope Leo XIV

Come together to explore some of the charitable and advocacy efforts we are called to on the JPIC journey that lies at the core of our Franciscan spirituality. On the day's agenda will be:

- Guest Speaker Dan Melis, Executive Director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, followed by a discussion of actions we are able to take back to our own fraternities during this Season of Creation
- A discussion of the realities and misperceptions around homelessness, including ways to become involved in existing apostolates that serve our region's homeless neighbors
- A discussion of how advocacy for fair elections is rooted in our Catholic Social Teaching, including FAN Executive Director Michele Dunne, OFS sharing FAN's involvement in soliciting and training bipartisan poll workers.
- And more. . . including updates on ways to respond to the OFS call to "accompany immigrants," and brainstorming our future involvement in both peacemaking initiatives and also the OFS World Week of the Poor in November.

$40 registration fee includes a light lunch. Please register ASAP, as spaces are limited. We regret that we are unable to accept unregistered walk-ins.

Register here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4DABAA2BAAFACE9-65634033-faith
Sponsored by the St Margaret of Cortona Region JPIC team.

For more information, contact Pat at pboye@secularfranciscan.org .