

MARY, QUEEN OF ANGELS FRATERNITY

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER—USA + ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA

+ JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER +

www.maryqueenofangelsfoaltoona.org

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Live a Life Worthy of Your Call



*The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay Him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring Him gifts.
Before Him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve Him.
For He shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.*
[paraphrase of Psalm 72]

ASSESSMENT REMINDER

is now due, **before end of January 2021**, \$45.

Please remit to Debbie, Fraternity Treasurer, 1106 8th Avenue, 16602. Many thanks!

INFIRM and HOMEBOUND

“The brothers and sisters, progressing in age, should learn to accept illness and increasing difficulties and to give a deeper sense to their life.” (GC 27) In your charity please remember in



prayer and in personal visits our homebound members: **at Home:** Janet Azeles, Camilla Palazzi, Cheryl Hengst; **at Garvey Manor:** Mary Margaret Kramar; Friars Adrian, Bill, and Terrence; **at St Stephen’s Living Center:** Mary Rita Stoltz; **at Graystone Manor:** Shirley Dougherty; **at St Bernardine Monastery:** Friars Eugene, Robert, Anthony, Giles, Seraphin, and Tello.

Please inform our Infirmarian, **Mike**, of any member who is infirm and/or homebound so that a visit can be arranged and/or a card be sent, bringing them our prayers and fraternal wishes.

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE HOME AND HOUSEHOLD



Ldr: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever. **R/** Blessed be God forever.

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with His love. May all who enter our home find Christ’s light and love.

Ldr: The Son of God made His home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon Him. **R/.** Stay with us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph You formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know You as our Guest and honor You as our Head. We pray: **R/.** Stay with us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, You had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty, accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing. We pray: **R/.** Stay with us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Three Kings presented their gifts to You in praise and adoration: grant that we who live in this home may use our talents and abilities to your greater glory, We pray: **R/.** Stay with us, Lord.

[Holding hands the Leader prays the blessing prayer] Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless our home and all who live in it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R/.** Amen



LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL GIFT Should you be looking for a religious gift, books, cards, or a gift for any occasion, visit The Friar's Nook across from St Bernardine Monastery, Route 36 South, 4 miles from Hollidaysburg.

Hours during pandemic: **Fridays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 4 PM.**

EMBER DAYS

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays near the beginning of each season are times of special penance and intercession. Although these Ember Days are not part of the Church's calendar, households may wish to observe fasting, works of charity, and prayer.

***Winter Ember Days: Reparation for Sins Against Life.
22 January: Anniversary of Roe v. Wade***

God our Creator,
guardian of our homes and source of all blessings,
Jesus your Son, begotten before the dawn of creation,
entered the human family and was entrusted to the care of Mary and Joseph.
Confirm in us a reverence for the gift and mystery of life,
so that parents and children, like the Holy Family of Nazareth,
may cherish one another and be heartened by your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MAY THE ANGELS LEAD YOU INTO PARADISE

The Friars of the Province announce and mourn the passing of our brother, **Father Patrick Seelman, T.O.R.**, 12 December, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. His life was devoted to Mary's intercession in all his endeavors.

EPIPHANY

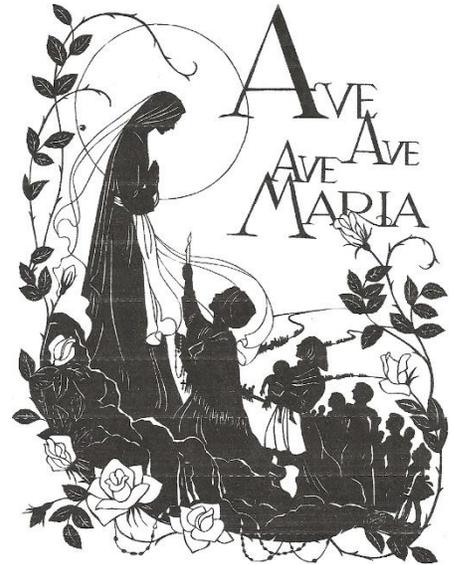
The word "epiphany" means an experience of a sudden and striking realization. Translated from the Greek, epiphany means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." The Feast of Epiphany celebrates the three events that manifests the divinity and the mission of Jesus: the visit of the Three Kings (Mt 2, 1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mk 1, 9-11), and the miracle at Cana's wedding feast (Jn 2, 1-11).

"Epiphany" refers to God's self-revelation to humankind. The feast of Epiphany helps us understand the Feast of the Nativity—the revelation of Christ as the Son of God—both as an infant and as an adult at His baptism.



JANUARY 2021 SECULAR FRANCISCAN SAINTS AND BLESSEDS

- 01 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- 03 Epiphany of the Lord
Most Holy Name of Jesus
St Christina of Tuscany, OFS
- 05 Bl Pierre Bonilli, OFS
- 07 St Angela Foligno, OFS
- 10 Bl Pope Gregory X, OFS
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- 15 Bl James Villa of Castelpieve, OFS
- 18 Bl Jeanne of St Mary, OFS
- 19 Bl Marcel Spinola y Maestre, OFS
- 21 Bl Joseph Nascimbeni, OFS
- 22 St Marianne Cope, TOR
St Vincent Palloti, OFS
- 23 Bl Ladislaus Batthyant-Strattmann, OFS
- 24 Bl Paula Gambarara Costa, OFS
- 25 Bl Emmanuel Dominguo y Sol, OFS
- 26 Bl Georges Matulwicz, OFS
- 27 St Angela Merici, OFS
Bl Paul Joseph Nardini, OFS
- 30 St Hyacintha of Mariscotti, OFS
- 31 St John Bosco, OFS
Bl Louise Albertoni, OFS



MOST HIGH, GLORIOUS GOD OF ALL NATIONS,

Father of the human family,
we give You thanks for the freedom we exercise
and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy
in these United States of America.



We ask for your protection and guidance
for all who devote themselves to the common good,
working for justice and peace at home
and around the world.

We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants,
those who will serve us as president, as legislators and judges,
those in the military and law enforcement.

Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord,
with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment
to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people,
and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst.
Amen.

OUR COUNTRY UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MARY

Loving and gracious God, we remember that Your plan for us is fullness of life lived with love, justice and mercy. Be with us and our entire nation as we work together with our newly elected leaders in all levels of society. Help us keep the common good before us.

Strengthen our gifts of wisdom, courage and respect for the views of others. Deepen within the willingness to act in solidarity with those who are economically poor, and with the voiceless seeking fullness of life in society.

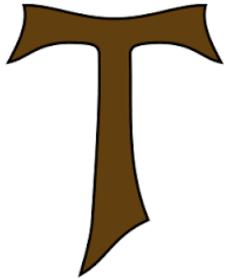
Help us be persistent in evaluating political remedies with what they will do for people, to people, with people, and what they will mean for the health and care of our planet.

Help us support one another in exercising our precious responsibilities as citizens in a representative democracy. Strengthen us to continue to work with our leaders, seeking an ever more just society that acts in harmony and interdependence with all creation.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Patroness of our country, in the name of Jesus her Son, in union with the Father and together with the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SECULAR FRANCISCANS IN TIMES OF GREAT CHANGES

Isolated in our homes, away from fraternity, can seem like an unplanned retreat experience. That having been said, pray over St Francis' *Salutation of the Virtues*, page 78 of the Ritual. In our Franciscan journey, let us be penitent in spirit and in practice. Virtue enables interior change which can be described as "tending towards God" (Raffaele Pazzelli, TOR, "St Francis and the Third Order). **Penance and the spirit of love are characteristics St Francis gave to the penitential movement of his day:**



Penance is not a state of mind ("going to confession" as a consequence of the human condition) but a journey that leads to God. Then the difficult Gospel: "Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect" is attainable through daily conversion, a continual ascent towards God. The life of penance is our road of ascent and assists us on this ascent.

The **spirit of love** grows in the heart of the penitent. For St Francis there is only one reality—absolute humility—God who loves on the one hand, and the whole world, including humankind. It is this relationship of love between God and humankind, between God and creation, which makes the Gospel call to conversion possible. May we, with God's grace, put that call to conversion into practice, and accept the Gospel as a message to live in the world.

