

# MARY, QUEEN OF ANGELS FRATERNITY

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER—USA + ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA

+ APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER +

[www.maryqueenofangelsfoaltoona.org](http://www.maryqueenofangelsfoaltoona.org)

Dave Balestino, O.F.S.  
Minister 414-6579  
[dave@stellartechnical.com](mailto:dave@stellartechnical.com)

Father Christopher, T.O.R.  
Spiritual Assistant 207-5847  
[xtofertor@aol.com](mailto:xtofertor@aol.com)

*Live a Life Worthy of Your Call*



*Death could not contain Him.*

*Love incarnate is the victory, and history is forever changed  
because of God's gift through the Savior.*

Most High, glorious God, in whom mercy is endless  
and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible,  
look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us,  
that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent,  
but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will which is Love and Mercy itself.

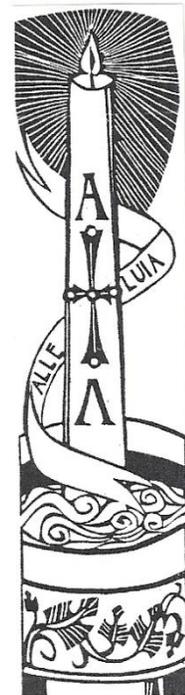
## INFIRM and HOMEBOUND

*“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:** 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.



## SAINTS and BLESSEDS of the FRANCISCAN FAMILY in APRIL 2021

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 01 | Happy Feast Day!                         |
| 02 | Bl Elizabeth Vendramini, TOR             |
| 03 | St Benedict the Black, OFM               |
| 04 | Bl William Cufitella of Sicily, OFS      |
| 05 | <b>Passion (Palm) Sunday</b>             |
|    | St Maria Crescentia Hoss, TOR            |
| 06 | Bl Angele Salawa, OFS                    |
| 07 | Bl Mary Assunta Pallotta, TOR            |
| 08 | Bl Julian of St Augustine, OFM           |
| 09 | <b>Holy Thursday</b>                     |
|    | Bl Thomas of Tolentino & Companions, OFM |
| 10 | <b>Good Friday</b>                       |
| 11 | <b>Holy Saturday</b>                     |
|    | Bl Angelo of Chivasso, OFM               |
| 12 | <b>Easter Sunday</b>                     |
| 14 | Bl Lidwyne de Schiedam, OFS              |
| 15 | Bl Gandolph of Binasco, OFM              |
| 16 | St Benedict Joseph Labre, OFS            |
| 18 | Bl Andre of Hibernon, OFM                |
| 18 | Bl James Oldo, OFS                       |
| 19 | Divine Mercy Sunday                      |
| 19 | Bl Conrad of Ascoli, OFM                 |
| 21 | St Conrad of Parzham, OFM Conv           |
| 22 | Bl Francis of Fabrianno, OFM             |
| 23 | Bl Giles of Assisi, OFM                  |
| 24 | St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, OFM           |
| 26 | Bl Pierre de Pethancourt, OFS            |
| 27 | St Zita of Lucca, OFS                    |
| 28 | Bl Luchesio & Buonadona, OFS             |
| 30 | Bl Benedict of Urbino, OFM               |
| 30 | St Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, OFS       |



## EASTERTIDE

Easter Sunday begins the fifty days of the Easter Season with **the event of the empty tomb and the charge by the Angel to “go and tell.”** For the next forty of those days, believers tell and re-tell stories of Jesus’ first followers who encounter Him against all hope—amidst doubt, fear, and longing—risen from the dead. The efforts of the early Church to spread the Gospel are recounted from the Acts of the Apostles.

The remaining nine days—from Ascension Day to Pentecost—the Church begins a **novena of prayer** while awaiting the promised coming of the Lord’s life-giving Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Eastertide, these seven weeks after Easter, is the season of mystagogia—**to be in intimate communion with God in relationship with God’s people.** Jesus taught us that faith comes to life when it is shared—when it is lived in community. Faith is not simply taught, it is caught. How? By observing it and by living it with others.

Let us recognize the Risen Lord Jesus where He is to be found, not only in Word and Sacrament, but in our midst--



## 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. **Now open Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM.**

## THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

On the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has issued a new apostolic letter entitled “*Patris corde—With a Father’s Love.*” Pope Francis describes St Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father—a **father who is creatively courageous**, a working father, a father in the shadows.



Pope Francis wrote his letter against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has **helped people see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people, who though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day.** In this, they resemble St Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

St Joseph,  
model of patience † pillar of families † hope of the sick † patron of the dying,  
pray for us.

## SECULAR FRANCISCANS IN TIMES OF GREAT CHANGES



As citizens we have a moral responsibility and a public obligation **to protect democracy and promote the common good** at a time when our country is deeply divided. Many are angry, concerned, frustrated by our politics.

- How do we knit our country back together again?
- What do we need to do to advance the common good, and protect our democratic institutions?

Effective polarization deeply divides democracy. **There's less about fidelity to principle as policy, and more about fear and loathing of the other side that pits people against each other.** One most worrying thing from this 2020 election—many people feel that violence would be justified if the other side wins. This affects not only what is right or wrong, or good or bad. It also drives fundamental confusion about what is true or false.

For example: the Qanon conspiracy theory—many people in both parties think the country would be better off if large chunks of the other side just up and died. For the future of democracy, with many who think the country would be better off if their fellow citizens died, they simply don't agree on what actually happened, or what is true or false.

OFS Rule 15 would compel us to affirm the character of our country, **“by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives...especially in the field of public life.”** All people of good will need to affirm

- that our nation is a nation of laws;
- that there is a sense of “E Pluribus Unum”;
- that our diversity is united around certain principles that unite and direct us., as opposed to a populous “pluribus,” that essentially disregards union;
- that there are important norms that undergird those laws; and
- that “civilization rests on obedience to the unenforceable.” (*John Fletcher Moulton, Lord Justice of Appeal, England, 1924*)

As loyal citizens, let us encourage our leaders:

- to work responsibly for a positive vision for America;
- to acknowledge the “signs of the times” and adhere to the law;
- to fulfill the oath of office they have affirmed;
- to insist that they will obey, protect and promote the law;
- to bring about the better angels of our humanity, to push back against fear, against the distortion of perception and behavior that we all are prone too, as fallen creatures; and
- to say what is true, and help unite a fractured people.



Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

## THOUGHTS DURING HOLY WEEK



### **Passion (Palm) Sunday** Beth Richardson

Today we enter Holy Week, with its cycle of life, death, and new life.

*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Jesus, the holy one, the whole one, enters Jerusalem as He rides on a donkey colt.

Crowds wave palm branches, and cry out:

*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Jesus, holy one, enter the gates of our hearts today as we join you in this time of your Passion, with you, let us remember and celebrate your birth, your calling, your ministry.

*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Jesus, our mentor of wholeness, guide us through the streets of our journey. Open our eyes and our ears to the guiding of God's Spirit who calls us to costly faithfulness and to joyous wholeness.

*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Let us sing with all our selves.

*Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven. Amen.*

### **Holy Thursday** "Jesu, Jesu" Ghana Folk Song, Tom Colvin

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve, the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, who pours out himself for them.

Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white, neighbors are near and far away.

These are the ones we should serve, the ones we should love, all are neighbors to us and you.

Kneel at the feet of our friends. Silently washing their feet. This is the way we should live with you.

### **Good Friday** Richard Eick

Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?

*I am here.*

Peter, slave of fear, where are you?

*I am here.*

Thomas, slave of doubt, where are you?

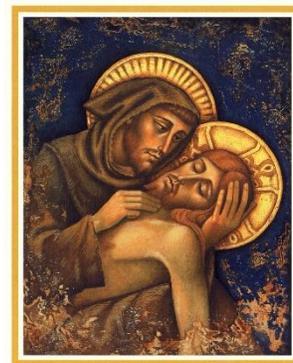
*I am here.*

Men and women of Jerusalem,  
enslaved to mod rule, where are you?

*I am here.*

Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?

*I am here.*



The story of Christ's passion and death mirrors for us much of our own weaknesses and sin. We all come here as men and women who have missed the mark and who are alienated from God and our neighbor far and wide.