

MARY, QUEEN OF ANGELS FRATERNITY

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER—USA + ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA

+ OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER +

www.maryqueenofangelsfoaltoona.org

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Live a Life Worthy of Your Call



The Fraternity is bound together
with the leadership of a minister and a council
who are ready and willing to serve (#21).

The Local Fraternity
is the basic living organism of the world-wide Secular Franciscan Order,
and a visible sign of the whole Church in miniature (#22).

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:** Camilla Palazzi, Cheryl Hengst; **at Garvey Manor:** Janet Azeles, Fr Adrian, Fr 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, Patrick and Steven. 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.



FRATERNITY GATHERING—Sunday 03 October 2021

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| 1:30 | Gathering
Opening Prayer from Ritual
Reflection |
| 2:00 | Chapter Announcements |
| 2:15 | Chapter of Elections |
| 4:15 | Liturgy of the Hours
Evening Prayer 1, Solemnity of St Francis
Adjournment |



CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

The date for the Chapter of Elections is set for 3 October 2021, the regularly scheduled time for the gathering of the fraternity. New leadership positions will be taken from among the members. The slate of nominees are:



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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| For Minister: | Guido Santella, OFS |
| For Vice Minister: | |
| For Secretary: | Kathi Saller, OFS |
| For Treasurer: | Debbie Santella, OFS |
| For Formation Director: | Mike Laratonda, OFS |
| For Councilor: | |

Nominations will also be taken from the floor. *“Perpetually professed of the fraternity have active voice, that is, can elect, and passive voice, that is, can be elected. The presence of more than half of the number of those having the right to vote is required for the valid celebration of the elective chapter” (GC 77:1,4).* Votation by law must be in person. Let us draw close to each other. So much vitality of fraternal life hangs in a balance.

THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH—Pope Francis' Meditation



of the beauty and joy of love.

St Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice, but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration, only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.

Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, the fruit of mature sacrifice. Whatever our vocation, as Seculars or Religious, requires this kind of maturity. Our gift of self will not come to fulfillment if it stops at sacrifice. Let the gift of self become a sign

St Joseph

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

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.**



SOCIAL THOUGHT OF POPE FRANCIS

I wish to speak about an experience that we all have encountered, if we look within ourselves: what is my relationship to the door? Some experience the open door, the closed door, the fear that the door may not be opened to me, or that the door may be closed in my face.

Would some people think that by putting a lock on the door their possessions would be safe for themselves? Some might be afraid to knock on the door, with the fear that we might not be welcomed and accepted. Some might want to enter but are afraid of what may or may not be on the other side.



If the door were a symbol for God, what would be your relationship now? Would you take possession of the door only for oneself? and not allow anyone else to enter? Or am I afraid to knock on the door, for fear of what God may or may not say to me?

In life, one must have humility to knock on the door, to have the courage to not be afraid of who opens the door, which is God. Once one has entered one must have the largesse not to close the door, without opening it so that others may enter. The door is God, who opens out to us. The door is our heart, open with attentive ear to those who knock.

Quotable Quote

“We must love our neighbor,
either because he is good or in order that he may become good.”

St Augustine

THE CROSSING FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Our Fraternity gathers regularly on the first Sunday of each month. Today's gathering is significant in two ways: the Transitus of our holy Father St Francis, and the fraternity's Elective Chapter.



For us, St Francis' teachings—those he spoke and those he embodied through his actions—are more than just a set of inspirational ideas. They are an example of how to live life well, **pouring oneself out in service to others for the glory of God, and even how to suffer with joy.** St Francis' life was also a testament to the Christian belief that the life we enjoy on this earth is not all there is.

Giving himself to a life of radical simplicity and poverty, St Francis' humble life pointed to his steadfast hope of life with Christ, and his belief that the life to come would fulfill him in the ways that worldly success never did. He believed that we were made for heaven—eternal union with God. With this in mind, he saw death not as something to be feared, but as something to be welcomed at its appointed time, because it was the transition into the life to come. He tended serenely to Sister Death, welcoming her and embracing her, in holy transport to his Lord and Brother.

We recall the several contradictions in Franciscan life—poverty over wealth, humility over power, joy in suffering, life in and through death. I would like to pick up where we left off last month in our formation session on **the value of peace and peace-making**, those eighteen months that have been anything but peaceful. Let us draw hope once again from St Francis.

Peace is not the absence of something—be it suffering, hatred, violence, fear, even death—nor is it incapable of existing where these realities are present. Rather, **peace, as St Francis showed us, can come from an internal disposition towards faith, hope, and charity**—these virtues are prayed by him to the Christ of the Cross of San Damiano—and a surrendering of one's own plans to God's plan. Our surrender to God may not always seem to change the situation before us, but our interior disposition does change. And God's peace "which the world cannot give" flows from that.

Let us forge ahead on our journey of the Kingdom, not knowing what lies ahead. Let us remember that God walks with us in the passage ways of life. The sufferings we do not understand in this life points us, through faith, to something greater. Let us be witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission of peace, proclaiming Christ by our life and words.

CELEBRATING ST FRANCIS DAY AT THE MONASTERY
Saturday 2 October



10:00 AM Fall Sale Friar's Nook Gift Shop
 Bake Sale
 Rummage/Garage Sale
 3:00 PM Rosary
 3:30 PM Pet Blessing
 4:00 PM Mass

SAINTS and BLESSEDS of the FRANCISCAN FAMILY in October 2021

- 01 Bl Nicolas of Forca, TOR religious, 1449
- 02 Holy Guardian Angels
- 02 Bl Antoine Chevrier, TOR religious, 1879
- 03 *Fraternity Gathering Chapter of Elections, 1:30 PM, San Damiano Hall***
- 03 **Transitus of our Holy Father St Francis****
 St Therese of the Child Jesus
 St Marie-Joseph Tossello, Secular Franciscan, 1880
- 04 **Solemnity and Feast Day of our Holy Father St Francis****
- 06 St Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, Secular Franciscan
- 07 Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
- 08 St Bridget of Sweden, Secular Franciscan, 1373
- 09 Bl Marie-Angele Truszkowska, TOR religious, 1899
- 10 St Daniel and Companions, 1st Order Martyrs, 1227
- 11 Pope St John XXIII, Secular Franciscan, 1963
- 12 St Seraphin of Montegrano, 1st Order Capuchin, 1604
- 13 Bl Honorat Kozminski of Biala, 1st Order, 1916
- 14 St John of Dukla, 1st Order Martyr, 1936
- 15 Bl Sebastien de Jesus, 1st Order, 1734
- 16 Bl Anicet de Dbrzno, 1st Order Capuchin Martyr, 1941
- 17 Bl Balthassar of Chiavari, 1st Order, 1490
- 20 Bl Contardo Ferrini, Secular Franciscan, Regional Patron, 1902
 Bl James of Strepar, 1st Order Bishop, 1409
- 21 Bl Josephine Leroux, Poor Clare Nun Martyr of France, 1794
- 22 Pope St John Paul II, 2005
 St Peter of Alcantara, 1st Order, 1562
- 23 St John Capistrano, 1st Order, 1456
- 25 Bl Maria Jesus Masia Ferragut & Companions, Poor Clare Nuns Martyrs of Spain, 1936
- 26 Bl Bonaventure of Potenza, 1st Order, 1711
- 29 Bl Thomas of Florence, 1st Order, 1447
- 30 Anniversary of Dedication, Consecrated Churches, Seraphic Order
- 31 Bl Angelo Acri, 1st Order, 1739
 Bl Christopher of Cohors, 1st Order, 1272



ST FRANCIS' LETTER TO THE ENTIRE ORDER—Lines 5-9



“Incline the ear of your heart and obey the voice of the Son of God. Observe His commands with your whole heart and fulfill His counsels with a perfect mind. Give praise to Him because He is good; exalt Him by your deeds; for this reason, He has sent you into the whole world: that you may bear witness to His voice in word and deed and bring everyone to know that there is no one who is all-powerful except God.”

THINK FEEL ACT

Images coming out of Afghanistan are compelling:

- parents entrusting their little children to soldiers, tossing them over the wall, abandoning them and in so doing, with great pain, saving them;
- a father raising his arm with his child in hand, passing him like a gift being given, to a perfect stranger;
- a pregnant mother, who climbed aboard on of the planes of salvation, went into labor during the flight; at great risk the pilot took the plane to a lower altitude and the child was born; the mother’s condition remained complicated with fears for her life.

These are stories of sacrifice and of salvation. They deserve a pause for us to think. They call us to reflect, to feel. As Christians and as Franciscans we cannot remain indifferent. We must act.

Two admirable gestures: in the first we see the parent lifting his child to entrust the child to the soldier and consigning the child to life, to a future, to what is denied on this side of that wall; in the second, the pilot, having heard the cry of pain, is moved to lower the plane, with all the risks that this entails, allows life to win out. *Dei Verbum* (The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation) #13, helps us understand:

“...the marvelous condescension of eternal wisdom is clearly shown, that we may learn the gentle kindness of God, which words cannot express, and how far God has gone in adapting His language with thoughtful concern for our weak human nature. For the words of God, expressed in human language, have been made like human discourse, just as the word of the eternal Father, when He took to Himself the flesh of human weakness, was in every way made like men.”



These two stories move in opposite directions but towards the same goal: salvation. The gesture which is admirable defines the condescension of God, the theme of Catholic theology which indicates the Divine love that descends and lowers itself to the level of human beings in order to communicate with and save them.

The Afghan mother who gave birth on the airplane, and who was fleeing from a deadly fate, reminds us of Mary, whose days of childbirth were completed, travelled on the back of a donkey towards a foreign land, in order to save the life of her Son.

These are stories of sacrifice and salvation, of life over death. Stories worth remembering in the hope of inspiring thought, then action. only then can there be fewer insurmountable walls of separation and more generous hearts responding to the darkness we are living in, offering solidarity and light.