



The Franciscan Sun- Herald

St. John the Beloved Apostle
Order of Secular Franciscan Fraternity
MAY 2018

Vol. 23, No.5
Meeting Place:
Basilica of St. Mary, Catholic
Church & Lyceum
313 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA
Meeting:
May 12, 2018 at St. Rita
Roman Catholic Church
(see page 2
for details)



Rule 18

Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which “bear the imprint of the Most High,” and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.

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Minister's Corner:

I thank everyone for making the election a success. I want to thank the members who gave the last three years of their lives in service to our fraternity and congratulate the new members of our council.

This is the beginning of a new triennial cycle. Our new council members will need to learn how the fraternity and the region wants us to keep records. Everyone has their own way of doing things, and it is a humble task to look at what's being asked of us to serve. I was awe struck to look back and see the simple orderly way that our fraternity has proceeded for the last fifty years. If we keep accurate and concise records, perhaps we can find room in our packed four drawer file cabinet when we archive them three years from now.

Anyway, we should honor those who have gone before us and plan for a nice celebration to mark the event when St John the Beloved Apostle Fraternity turns **50**. Perhaps a nice cake and punch. Invite past members and priests who have guided us along the way and even those who have stopped in along the way. We are not just saying we are “old”, but we are saying we are still here and going strong in our spiritual commitment to St Francis to follow the Gospel way of Jesus Christ in our everyday lives. May the Lord bless all of you.

OFS Newsletter Reflection – May 2018
submitted by: Tom White, OFS

Mary – Who is she really?

May is the month of Mary, so I reflected on what I should write about her while I was at Morning Prayer. As I prayed, I felt inspired to write this. Mary is known to us by many names such as The Mother of God; The Immaculate Conception; The Virgin Mary; Our Lady Assumed into Heaven; Our Lady of Fatima; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Our Lady of the Snows; The New Eve; and Our Lady, and Star of the Sea to name a few. There are many other titles and names that describe our Holy Mother, but none of these names can alone fully or adequately describe her.

We all know how Mary's story began, that while still a teenager, the Angel Gabriel visited her and announced that she would be the Mother of Jesus, that she conceived by the Holy Spirit and gave birth to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Do we really grasp the magnitude of what God really asked Mary to do? Most scholars agree, that God did not force Mary to accept his will, but that she willingly accepted the will of God without any reservation, and fully knowing the predicament she would be in if she was discovered "with child" while betrothed to Joseph. She knew that she could be subject to the Law, but believed and trusted that God would care for her and his Son. Think about the immensity of the task to which Mary agreed. Until that time, God had not asked anyone anywhere to enter into such an intimate relationship. No one had been asked to carry the "Son of the Most High" in her womb for nine months until His birth. To be sure, God had asked a lot of Moses, Abraham, Isaac, David, and many others, but none had been asked to enter into a relationship of extreme intimacy as that of Mary.

More than this, Eve was created from the rib of Adam in the Garden of Eden, was involved in the downfall of all humanity and was included in perpetuation of man in the image of God; now, God uses Mary as His instrument to incarnate his Son, in the image of "Man" in order to save

all humanity, as quoted from Philippians 2:7, "Rather he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance."

Furthermore, the Angel, Gabriel did not disclose everything that was to happen to her and Jesus before she agreed to be the mother of God and Mary did not ask. Most of us would have wanted to read the "fine print." Instead, Mary accepted the will of God without knowing what the future held and trusted in the Lord. She knew that she was agreeing not only to give birth to him but to care and nurture him her entire life as would any mother.

Accordingly, as His mother, Jesus honored her, listened to her and obeyed her. When he was a grown man and starting his public ministry, this obedience takes a new form. Instead of doing chores around the house, she now asks Jesus to do something for someone else. Thus, he performs his first miracle, turning the water used for Jewish ceremonial washings into wine, and begins His public ministry.

Later, as Jesus was dying on the cross, he turned Mary's concern for all humankind into a new mission to be mother to the whole human race. From this event, springs forth the elevation of our Holy Mother as a great intercession, for as Jesus declared in Matthew 5: 17-18, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish, but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place." One such command was to Honor thy father and thy mother" to which, Jesus bound himself as the son of God and the son of Mary. Therefore, our Holy Mother has also come to be known as one of the greatest intercessors (Jesus Christ being the Greatest intercessor).

Reflecting on the role of our Mother Mary, it becomes apparent that the term "Mother" takes on an entirely new importance and much broader meaning than ever before.

**Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we
may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.**

Fraternity Focus

Schedule for May Meeting:

This month's Meeting will be held at Saint Rita Church at 3815 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305

The following is the agenda for our May meeting at St Rita:

- 10:30 Open the meeting

 Liturgy of the Hours/Divine Office
- 10:45 Business meeting
- 11:00 Ongoing Formation –
 “Compassion” – Introduction
 and Chapter 1
- 12:00 Lunch break which will be in place
 of our social hour.
- 1:00 pm Franciscan Crown Rosary and
 Closing Prayer
- 1:30 Our first new Council meeting
- 2:00 Everyone please help Cleanup
 before you leave
- 2:30 We must return use of the room
 back to St Rita's

Please be sure to bring one or two non-perishable food items for sharing with members. Also, if possible for you, please consider bringing an item to share for the lunch to increase our sense of community.

Thank You

Thanks to all of past servant leaders who worked so tirelessly as members of our fraternal council. May God reward and bless

you and your families for all your hard work.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all our newly elected servant leaders of the fraternal council. Please pray that the Holy Spirit may guide them in leading our fraternity.



(Our new leaders – depicted from L-R: Stephen Piscitelli, OFS, Marcia Campbell, OFS, Claudia Carpenter, OFS, Scott Graham, OFS, Pat McGrath, OFS, Sadie Martins, OFS, and Tom McGrath, OFS)

Upcoming Events

June 29 –1 Aug – Chapter of Mats

Will be held in Priest Field. A copy of an application is attached with the newsletter distribution email.

Calendar for Christ House in 2018

Remaining dates for Christ House this year will be **May 19**, June 16, August 18, October 20 and November 17. For further details, please see Sadie Martins or Marcia Campbell. If you have never tried it, please do so. It is a wonderful way to fulfill the needs of those less fortunate.

Bulletin Board

Our Family:

Recalling the words of St. Francis regarding the sick:

I beg all my sick brothers that they do not become angry in their infirmities or disturbed either against God or against their brothers....

Let them give thanks in all things so that they may desire to be as God wants them to be.

And Let Us Pray:

For the Healing of:

Mary Ann Friesen
Karen Riedl
Lorraine Lee
John Dina & his family, especially
Meredith
Catherine Williams, daughter Amy,
Wayne, Cathy William's Son-In-Law
Art Scarano
Claudia Carpenter & her nephew
Nancy Gormley
Francis Piscitelli
Camilla Aksamit & Jim Hardy
Scott and the Beard Family
Anna Therese and the Park Family
Pat McGrath's sister, Mary Wagner
& husband, John
Wilma Connair, Karen's Mother-in-law
Stephen Connair
Michael, Laura, Kim & Michelle
Feldman
Ben and Sarah Lewis

For all our families and friends who need God's healing that God will have mercy on all the sick and injured, especially those who are dying.

For the Repose of the Souls who have preceded us into eternal life:

Lorre Bracey – Marcia's daughter
David Robertson – Joanne's son
Cathy Williams Mother
George Webb, Geneva's Father
Alfie Evans
and for all the Souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them.

Special Intentions:

For our Holy Father and all the leaders of the Church that they may faithfully adhere to Christ's teachings.

For John S. and all those struggling with addictions.

For those being persecuted throughout the world for their faith.

For the conversion of the socialized medicine in England to allow parents to have a say in the health treatment of their terminally ill children.

Please continue to pray the daily Rosary for all the people of Ireland, that the Lord may guide their conscience to vote "NO" in the up-coming referendum to repeal the ban on abortion in June.

For an end to abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide in this country and throughout the world.

In Thanksgiving for our Leaders.

For our Fraternity and for all of our intentions held close to our heart.

Our Fraternity:

Profession Anniversaries:

Congratulations this month to Scott Graham – May 9, 2015.

Birthdays: Please extend Happy Birthday wishes to Joanne Robertson, May 15th. May God Bless her throughout this coming year!

In Memoriam: May the souls of our sisters and brothers,
Elizabeth Schaefer May 2, 1983;
Harry J. McDermott, May 30, 1987; and
Deacon Domingo Tan, May 31, 2014
Rest In Peace.

Franciscan Saints, Blesseds & Holy Ones (for all 3 branches of the Order)

May – Month of the Holy Virgin Mary

1. Feast of Saint Joseph the Artisan
2. St. Richard Pampuri, Confessor, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious institute, d. 1930.
3. Bl. Edouard-Joseph Rasas, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1903.
4. Bl. Ladislav de Gleinow, Priest, religious of the Franciscan First Order, d. 1505.
5. Bl. Beinvenu Mareni, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan First Order, d. 1289.
6. Bl. Marie-Catherine Troijani, Birgin, religious of the Third Order Regular [living in community, under a rule], d.1897.
7. Bl. Anne-Rose Gattorno, Virgin, religious of the Third Order Regular [living in community, under a rule], d. 1900.
8. Feast of Mary Mediatrix of all Graces
9. Bl. Antione Bajewski, Priest, Conventual Religious, martyr 1941
10. Bl. Marie-Bernard Butler, Virgin, religious of the Third Order Regular [living in community, under a rule], d. 1924
11. St. Gimme de Solomona, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1439
12. St. Ignatius of Laconi, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1781
13. St. Michel Garicoitz, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious institute, d. 1863.
14. St. Marie-Dominique Mazzarello, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining a religious institute, d. 1881.
15. St. Jean-Baptistry de la Salle, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining a religious institute, d. 1719.
16. St. Theophile de Corte, Priest, religious of the Franciscan First Order, d. 1740.
17. St. Pascal of Baylon, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan First Order, d. 1592.

18. St. Felix of Cantalice, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1587.
19. St. Yvette, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1303.
20. St. Bernardin de Sienna, Priest, religious of the Franciscan First Order, d. 1444.
21. St. Crisp in de Viterbe, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1750.
22. St. Joaquina Verduna, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining a religious institute, d. 1854.
23. Bl. Gerard de Villamagna, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1242
24. Bl. Jean de Prada, Priest, religious of the Franciscan First Order, martyr, d. 1631
25. Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi, 1253.
26. St. Philippe Neri, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious institute, d. 1595; memorial of DST. Marie-Anne Parades, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1645.
27. Bl. Gerard de Lunei, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1270.
28. St. Jean-Baptiste Rossi, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1764.
29. Bl. Etienne et Raymond, Priest, religious of the Franciscan First Order, d. 1242.
30. St. Joan of Arc, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1431; King Saint Fernando III, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1252.
31. Feast of the Queenship of Mary, Public Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Novena in preparation of the feast of Pentecost. Pentecost – plenary indulgence – Chant in public the Veni Creator Sacred Heart – Plenary Indulgence – Public Recitation of the Act of Reparation.



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