



The Franciscan Sun- Herald

St. John the Beloved Apostle
Order of Secular Franciscan Fraternity
May 2020

Meeting Place:
Basilica of St. Mary, Catholic Church & Lyceum
313 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA
Meeting Date: May 9, 2020
online with Zoom.



The Rule of the OFS:
Article 2
The Secular Franciscan Order holds a special place in this family circle. It is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world and open to every group of the faithful. In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of Saint Francis by means of this rule approved by the Church.

Minister's Corner:

The Lord is Risen Alleluia! This is our mantra until Pentecost as we are celebrating Easter for 40 days. We honor Our Lady this month and pray to St Joseph to intercede for our Church to get back the mass and sacraments for us. We pray for our country which is suffering medically and economically, physically and psychologically from the shutdown. Pray for

those in harm's way. Pray for each other as we need the graces from God to persevere through this pandemic as well as we need each other's prayer support.

The next time we meet on Saturday May 9, we will meet online. I was looking for an alternative place to meet anyway because of the annual schedule for first holy communion which preempts our May meeting every year. I am going to ask if Tom McGrath can host us again on May 9 and he will email you details of the time of the online meeting particulars. I will host my own meeting with the council as a test to decide whether I will use zone or some other platform. More details to follow.

Tom White tells me that he is still doing well with his Cisco WebEx online meeting for formation from his home with our Candidates from their homes. Our online meeting Sunday, April 26, was successful. Twelve of us were able to get into our little one-hour social meeting which was hosted by Tom McGrath, OFS/SA. It was great catching up with all of you. Those who may have problems getting in should call me and let me know, as my phone was available while I was on the computer. For those of you who did not get in, please know that you can get

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on using your phone, no need for the internet or a computer.

Many of us logged onto the St Padre Pio Prayer Group meeting. We were asked in addition to praying for the sick and the dying, to pray for Fr Carrier who dutifully went to the hospital to care for COVID and other parishioners. He hopes that he may be able to give his homily and blessing online to the prayer group at a later time.

Last month we were asked to modify our support for Christ House until further notice. Sadie will again coordinate our modified support which means our Christ House volunteers will prepare 50 premade bagged meals with two meat and cheese sandwiches, fruit, bottled water, and snack for Saturday, May 16. Sadie and crew successfully did that for the first time in March. Be on the lookout for additional information from Sadie as she would like to get many hands to make light work. We will continue to practice hygiene and social distancing.

National and Regional fraternities continue to encourage our participation in online spiritual events, private prayer from home, and visiting open churches with social distancing, doing Stations of the Cross, visits to the Blessed Sacrament hidden in the Tabernacle for love of us, Confessions with social distancing when offered, Adoration set up in some parishes, daily Liturgy of the Hours at home or on an internet app, Franciscan Crown Rosary every Saturday at home, and novena prayers that we can all say together at an announced time, praying for one another and for an end to the pandemic.

We are continuing to modify how we help our older members and sick members such as with phone calls to discover if there is some need. Please share with us if you discover anyone who needs our assistance. Donna and her team continue to offer homemade masks for a small donation of \$5 per mask. We would like to begin to make headbands with ear buttons for healthcare workers who are suffering from the elastic bands of the N95 masks. Anyone who

would like to participate please see online patterns. More information will be forthcoming.

Please keep your prayers going for our April 2021 meeting where we will hold elections with St Margaret of Cortona Region visitors presiding. Our election rules say we must meet and attend in person and have a quorum; that will happen only when things open up. Meanwhile please be thinking what officer position the Lord is calling you to accept for nomination. Anyone who is not eligible to run for office but is eligible to vote may volunteer to serve on the nomination committee. Everyone please be safe and Trust in God, Our Lady, St Francis and all the saints to walk with us during this trial.

Note: Please remember to send your monthly donation to Scott at his mailing address:

Scott Graham, OFS
Treasurer
St John the Beloved Apostle Fraternity
8 East Spring Street,
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Pax et Bonum
Steve Piscitelli, OFS, Minister

April 2020 Reflection



The month of May is a special time for us Catholics to pay homage to our Blessed Mother Mary.

Note that I say we pay homage to her. Contrary to a distressing misconception found among

Evangelicals and Protestants, we honor Mary. We do not worship her.

She has a unique role in salvation history as the Mother of God, conceived without Sin, who by her own free will agreed to bring the "Word made flesh", (John 1:14) our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the world.

Mary is prefigured as the one who would crush the head of the serpent (a figure of Satan) in Genesis 3:15 through her Divine Son. Still she in no way overshadows Him, nor would she ever wish to!

Her life in the Gospel years was one of service and great devotion to Jesus, from the cave in Bethlehem where she gave birth to Him, to Calvary in Jerusalem where she stood by His cross in His Crucifixion, from Crib to Cross, as it were.

While she has a somewhat low profile in the Gospels, her words there still resonate with us today and challenge us to follow her example of humility, obedience, and service to God.

We read when she gives her famous assent to becoming Jesus' mother: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word" (Lk 1:38). A short time later she proclaims with joy in the Magnificat when visiting Elizabeth, her relative, that "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Lk.1:46-47).

And, last but not least, what are her final words in scripture? "Do whatever he [Jesus] tells you" (John 2:5). (This is her request to the waiters at the Wedding Feast at Cana right before Jesus turns water into wine with just a thought).

The paucity of references to Mary in the Gospels has made many Evangelicals and other Protestants, as well known author Mark Shea once speculated, think of Catholic devotion to her as something somehow pagan, as if we were somehow deifying an ordinary woman, turning her into some kind of interloper hindering our worship of Christ.

Yet in creating her to be the only human being without the stain of Original Sin (outside of Jesus, of course, who had both a Human and a Divine nature), God nonetheless chose Mary specifically to play a vital role in our salvation.

Mary's Immaculate Conception enabled her to bear her Divine Son in a womb free from any taint of sin and enabled her to devote her life to Jesus in the most loving and devoted manner possible.

(Can you imagine what might have happened if she had been prone to the kinds of weaknesses of human nature we all suffer from? If she were somehow jealous of her Divine Son, for example, or was otherwise unwilling to bear with the great sorrows as well as the joys as the Mother of our Lord!)

Speaking of sorrows, Jesus, as He was dying on the Cross, gave us His mother to be our Mother as well when he entrusted her to St. John's care (Jn 19:26-27) Numerous theologians and Saints have confirmed this.

Mary was conceived and lived a life "full of Grace" (Lk. 1:28). And she wishes very much to share the graces given her by God on our behalf. St. Bernardine of Siena once said: "Every grace that is communicated to this world has a threefold course. For by excellent order, it is dispensed from God to Christ, from Christ to the Virgin [Mary], from the Virgin to us."

Pope Pius XII was by no means alone when he once said "Whenever we speak of Mary or speak to her, let us not forget that she is really our Mother, for through her we received divine life. She gave us Jesus himself, the source of grace. Mary is a Mediatrix and Dispenser of Graces."

Many non-Catholic Christians may take issue with this notion, referring to the famous quote from St. Paul in his letter to Timothy that "there is one mediator between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 2:5). Yet it is important to note that "one" here means "first" not "only".

Have you ever asked someone to pray for you? That's the kind of mediation we're talking about here. And Mary, as the beloved Mother of God, makes a powerful intercessor for us indeed!

Note also that Mary's many church-approved apparitions on behalf of her Son (such as Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Lourdes) serve to further reinforce our faith that Jesus is indeed the Son of God and the Second Person of the Trinity functioning on a dazzling supernatural plane. His Earthly ministry wasn't just that of some philosopher or some wise teacher!

Our Blessed Mother has shown us some amazing miracles on His behalf that can strengthen our faith. (Think of the "Miracle of the Sun" from Our Lady of Fatima, for example!)

In these and other such apparitions she has urged all of us "Banished children of Eve" to adopt greater piety and devotion to God and neighbor. (But do we listen? That's the question!) She has also given us a great weapon in our Spiritual arsenal in the Rosary. St. Francis de Sales called it "the greatest method of praying".

Blessed Alan de la Roche said this prayer is "the storehouse of countless blessing." And St. Padre Pio once remarked that "the Rosary is the weapon given us by Mary to use against the tricks of the infernal enemy." It not only brings us graces, but also is a great way to meditate on the lives of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother!

Mary herself once told Blessed Alan that "when you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delights in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I myself am happier than you can possibly guess. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, there is nothing in the Church that I love as much as the Rosary."

Remember that Mary always seeks to be a bridge not a barrier to Her Divine Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Don't ever feel afraid to approach her in prayer for grace, strength and

her intercession to Jesus for your personal intentions!

Christopher Castagnoli

for www.ourcatholicprayers.com

Pax et Bonum,
Tom White, OFM

Fraternity Focus:

March Program:

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| 8:00 | Televised Mass Opportunities (Optional) |
| 10:00 | Open the meeting Liturgy of the Hours/Divine Office |
| 10:30 | Business meeting |
| 11:00 | Ongoing Formation |
| 12:30 | Rosary of Our Lady and Closing Prayer |

Events:

Christ House Apostolate:

Our next event at Christ House will be on May 16, 2020. We will discuss changes to how we do this at the April Fraternity Meeting.

Online Retreats are available by copying and pasting this URL into your browser:

https://aleteia.org/2020/04/02/4-online-retreats-offered-during-holy-week/?utm_campaign=NL_en&utm_source=daily_newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=NL_en

Upcoming Formation Opportunities:

Initial Formation: Stella and Sovanny's formation meetings will be conducted online using Cisco WebEx, at 0900 on May 23, 2020. This class will focus on Chapters 18 and 19 in the Journey Book, which is about the themes: Obedience, Building the Kingdom, Way of the Cross, Poverty, Simplicity, Detachment, and the Beatitudes.

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:

Art Scarano; Lorraine Lee; Camilla Aksamit; Cathy Williams and Family; Karen Riedl; John Dina and family; Stephen Connair, Wilma Connair; Ben Lewis; Claudia's sister, Pamela Voetberg, Laine Ritter; Suzie Kermit; Michelle Tringhese; Scott Beard; Fr. Mike Hann; Patricia Lutz Moran; Peggy Gregory; Barbara Clinscales; Nick Pak; Tom McGrath; John Schup; Peggy Gregory and for all our families and friends who need God's healing. May God have mercy on all the sick and injured, especially those who are dying.

In gratitude for God's healing and Gifts:

Much like the ten lepers cured by Jesus in Luke 17: 11-18, we seem to spend most of our time praying for our own and other's needs, and less time giving thanks to God for all he does for us. Let us be like the

leper who returned to Jesus, praising God for all He has done.

We give thanks to God for all he has done for us and our families, especially for the life of our Fraternity, our faith and prayer life, for the joyous birth of Benjamin James Jenkins, for all the good things we see average people do during this time of crisis, for all the medical professionals who work tirelessly to preserve life, for all our first responders who place themselves in harm's way for all of us, for all our essential workers that whose efforts allow us to stay indoors and socially distanced, for all those who volunteer their time to serve the less fortunate, for the opportunity to participate in God's plan of service, for all our first responders who keep us safe, for all your servants who work tirelessly for the salvation of souls and for the multitude of other things we did not notice.

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

Br. John-Sebastian Laird-Hammond, OFM, Br. Ed Coughlin; Peg McGrath Ward; Lorre Brace; David Robertson; Ramon Carag; Cathy Williams Mother; Michael Feldman; George Webb; Alfie Evans; Elsie Mae Corro; Joan Hartley; Donald Wagner; Jean Weaver; Beverly Pardini; Naed Smith; Judy Ryerse; William Martin; Susan Encroft; Vicki Santora; Carlin; Jeanie McLees; Fr. Lester Bach; Bolton Gregory; Joseph Gregory, and for all those who have died from the Corona Virus and all the Souls in Purgatory.

Special Intentions:

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

For religious vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, for the sanctity of marriage

between one man and one woman, and for religious freedom.

For the sanctity of all our priests, religious, and lay people.

For those being persecuted throughout the world for their faith.

For our veterans, military, doctors, nurses, medical professionals and first responders.

For all those suffering from the Corona Virus, that God may heal them and give them peace.

For all those who mourn the loss of loved ones, that their sadness might be turned into joy.

For all those struggling with addictions.

For all victims of sex abuse worldwide especially victims within the Church.

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

For peace in the world, peace in our families, and peace in our hearts.

For all those affected by natural disasters and forest fires, and for all those providing disaster relief and their families.

For our leaders, that the Holy Spirit guide them to make morally faithful decisions.

For all our political candidates and leaders, that they would protect and respect the dignity of each person, by protecting the right to life, from conception to natural death.

For our Fraternity members and their families, and for all our intentions held close to our hearts.

Our Fraternity:

Profession Anniversaries:

Scott Graham – May 9, 2015

Fraternity Birthdays:

Joanne Robertson - May 15th

In Memoriam: May the souls of all our dear sisters and brothers, especially

Elizabeth Schaefer - May 2, 1983

Harry J. McDermott - May 30, 1987

Deacon Domingo Tan - May 31, 2014

May God grant them His rest and His peace.

Franciscan Saints, Blessed & 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 Rosas, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1903
4. Bl. Ladislav de Gielnow, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1505
5. Bl. Beinvenu Mareni, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
6. Bl. Marie-Catherine Troijani, Virgin, 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. Antoine 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. Gemme de Sulmona, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1439
 12. St Ignatius of Laconi, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1781
 13. Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, St. Michel Garicoitz, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1863
 14. St. Matthias, Apostle, St. Marie-Dominique Mazzarello, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1881
 15. St. Jean-Baptiste de la Salle, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1719
 16. St. Theophile de Corte, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1740
 17. St. Paschal of Baylon, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1592
 18. St. Felix of Cantalice, lay brother, Capuchin religious, 1587
 19. St. Yves, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1303
 20. St. Bernardin de Sienne, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1444
 21. Solemnity of the Ascension, St. Crispin de Viterbe, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1750
 22. St. Joaquina Vedruna, Virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1854
 23. Bl. Gerard de Villamagna, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1242
 24. Solemnity of the Ascension (Transferred), Bl. Jean de Prado, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 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 St. Marie-Anne Parades, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1645

27. Bl. Gerard de Lunel, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1270
 28. St. Jean-Baptiste Rossi, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1764
 29. Bl. Etienne et Raymond, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1242
 30. St. Joan of Arc, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1431, King Saint Fernando II, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1252
 31. Solemnity of Pentecost.



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