



The Franciscan Sun- Herald

St. John the Beloved Apostle Fraternity
Third Order of Saint Francis - Secular
September 2021

Gathering Place:
Basilica of St. Mary, Catholic Church & Lyceum
313 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA
Gathering Date: September 11, 2021, at the Lyceum.



The Rule of the OFS:
Article 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.

Minister’s Corner:

Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,
This month we are celebrating the month of the Exaltation of the Cross. I am also reminded of St. Clare’s mirror meditation in which we see ourselves in the Crucified Christ and interiorly change so that we become more like our Lord and Master. Article 18 of The Rule, which is printed in this month’s Newsletter talks about how all things, “bear the imprint of the Most High.” Perhaps, loving our neighbor would be easier if we recognized that all people bear the image of our Lord.
This week month our gathering will focus the third chapter of the Book St. Francis: A Biography which is entitled Builder of

Churches, which will be facilitated by Tom McGrath. and have a lot of opportunities to grow closer to the Lord. We are also celebrating the Feast of the Assumption of Mary on August 15th, which is a great cause for hope that we will all be reunited in Heaven with our Lord and all the angels and saints when the Lord chooses to call us out of the world into His heavenly Kingdom.

Congratulations go out to Comfort whose Profession Anniversary is this month and John Dina, Annie Marie Pierce, and Rita Evans, who all celebrate birthdays this month. We also celebrate some great saints this month, including St. Padre Pio (One of my Favorites 😊). We also celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14th and recall the Stigmatization of St. Francis on September 17th, and the start of the St. Francis Novena starting on September 25th.

More Great news! Christ house this past month was a great success, as always! We got to cook and serve together, had a great turn-out, and were able to pray the Rosary together.

Please remember to support pro-life activities in some way. This is becoming a big campaign issue in the Gubernatorial race and deserves our attention. So, please pray for an end to abortion and come out and pray a Rosary if you can.

At our next gathering, I’d also like to revisit growing our Fraternity again just to see

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where we are at and where we need to go to reach our goals.

May God bless and keep you and your families, and grant you his peace,

Tom White, OFS

Reminder to please send your monthly donations to:

Scott Graham, OFS
Treasurer
8 East Spring St
Alexandria, VA 22301

August 2021:
Month of the Exaltation of the Cross



Many of us know how St. Helena, who was the mother of the Emperor Constantine (Before his conversion) rediscovered the Cross of Christ. Many of us understand the veneration of the Cross of Christ and understand that why it is so very special to all Catholics, but did you know that the Cross itself has changed over time. In the beginning, when the Christianity was an outlaw religion in the Roman Empire, the Cross was not used as a symbol of Christianity because it exposed worshipers to identification and arrest. Most of us are aware that the symbol of the fish was used instead of the cross but sometimes the single vertical portion of the cross without the

horizontal cross bar was also used to identify Christians.

In fact, the Body of Christ, or the Corpus, which makes a Cross a Crucifix first appeared in Gaul (France today) in the Eighth Century. That's why St. Patrick's Celtic Cross, dating from third Century Ireland and later Scotland (and is still popular today), had no Corpus. During the Eighth Century, the Gallicans (French) under The Holy Roman Emperor, Charlemagne, initiated many changes to the Mass, the sacraments and the sacramentals of the Church. They also accentuated the suffering of Christ, which included adding the Corpus to the Cross.

Unfortunately, this recognition of the suffering of Christ was overemphasized to the point that the Laity were overwhelmed and refused to participate in Eucharist because they believed they were "unworthy."

Instead, the Priest would raise the Body of Christ over his head as we still do during the Eucharistic Prayer and the bells would be ring so that the Laity could look on the Body of Christ. The laity would then look at the Body of Christ for as long as possible, which became known as the "gaze." Also, it is no accident that the Crucifix is somewhat in line with the Body of Christ when the Priest raises it during the Eucharistic Prayer so that it can be seen raised just as Christ was raised on the Cross. This was originally done so that the people could see the Body of Christ and the Precious Body of Christ, which had been hidden from them while the Priest silently "said" the prayers of consecration. For most of the laity, this was as close as they could get to the Body and Blood of Christ because they were "unworthy."

Consequently, to increase the participation of the Laity in the Eucharist, the Church was forced to de-emphasize the suffering of our Lord, by emphasizing the

communal aspect of the sacrament, and required that all the faithful participate in the Eucharist at least once a year, which is still one of the precepts of the Church. However, even when the Church emphasized the communion aspect of the Eucharist, the Crucifix remained. This is one of the more obvious differences between Protestants and Catholics today because the Crucifix emphasizes the sacrifice and triumph over death, while Protestants believe that the Cross without the Body of Christ emphasizes the Risen Lord, and of course deemphasizes the sacrificial nature of Christ's death, supporting Luther's doctrine that salvation is "imputed" by God rather than the result of Christ's sacrifice.

So, it's no surprise that Martin Luther would get rid of the Crucifix, just as he removed the vestments of the priests which were connected to the Hebrew temple sacrifices, and changed the Priests titles to ministers, along with the denial of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. These changes essentially removed the authority of the Priests, the Bishops, and the Pope. If they were not sanctified and holy, then they also had no authority. This led to the other denials of Apostolic Succession, and the reduction of seven Sacraments to three to five depending on the denomination, and many other things.

Amazing what happens when you change the Cross of Christ! Perhaps that is why the Crucifix has remained unchanged in the Church since the eighth century. This also shows how important the Cross of Christ really is and why it is so worthy of our reflection.

Pax et Bonum,
Tom White, OFS

Fraternity Focus:

September Program:

8:00 Mass at Saint Mary Basilica

- 9:30 Open the gathering, Liturgy of the Hours/Divine Office
- 10:00 Ongoing Formation – Presentation and discussion of chapter three of "St. Francis of Assisi: A Biography," by Omer Englebert.
- 11:00 Current and Future activities and events coordination and support
- 11:30 Rosary of Our Lady and Closing Prayer

Primary Gathering Topics:

- Discussion of St. Francis of Assisi Biography
- Update on Treasury
- Christ House Apostolate Update
- Growing Our Fraternity

Future Events:

Christ House Apostolate:

Last month was great! We were able to cook and serve the meal together, with some COVID 19 modifications!



The Crew hard at work!

Our next Apostolate to Christ House will be on October 16, 2021. More information will be discussed during the September and October Gatherings.

Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group:

Meets at 2:30 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of every month. Now in person at Blessed Sacrament Church, virtual, please call or email Elaine Drapeau at 571-215-6410, edrapeau3@gmail.com

Weekly Prayer Time Group:

Meets online on Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:00 PM to pray for all those who need our prayers. Please contact Rita at ritaandscott@hotmail.com for more information.

Pro-Life Information and Events:

See page 7 for additional information and contact our Pro-Life Counselor, Geneva Park at jim.geneva@cox.com

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:

Lorraine Lee; Camilla and Jim Aksamit; Karen Riedl; John Dina and family; Stephen Connair, Wilma Connair; Ben and Sarah Lewis; Claudia's sister, Pamela Voetberg, Laine Ritter; Michelle Tringhese; Scott Beard; Fr. Mike Hann; Patricia Lutz Moran; Peggy Gregory; Barbara Clinscales; Nick Pak; John Schup; Gavin Fortson; Stevie Rinaldi, Francis Piscitelli; Elaine; Annie Lapinski; Somali Karimi; Sarine Kik; Barbara and Shirley; Mark Bowl; Jan Parker; Shannon & Claire; Ray Engelking;

Joe Messina, Father Jerome Daley, Fred West III and family, Barbara Jenkins, Angela Carroll 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 appreciation for life that you have given us, and the joy of the eternal life which will come to all of us when our race is finished, for all those that God sends our way who enlighten us and raise us to greater heights, even if only for a short time, 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, and essential workers who place themselves in harm's way for all of us, for all our essential workers whose efforts allow us to get through all this, for all those who volunteer their time to serve the less fortunate, for the opportunity to participate in God's plan of salvation and service, for the miraculous healing of Sue Poppelmeier, for Anne Marie Pierce's recovery from her heart attack, for Lucia Madonna West born in July, for all your servants who work tirelessly for the salvation of souls, for the healing of Ruth Higgin's family, for the people God sends our way that we might experience him through them and for the multitude of other things we did not notice.

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

Cathy Williams, OFS; Br. John-Sebastian Laird-Hammond, OFM; Br. Ed Coughlin; Peg McGrath Ward; Lorre Bracey; David Robertson; Ramon Carag; Cathy Williams Mother; Michael Feldman; George Webb; Alfie Evans; Elsie Mae Corro; Joan Hartley; Donald Wagner; Naed Smith; Judy Ryerse; William Martin; Susan Encroft; Vicki Santora; Carlin; Jeanie McLees; Fr. Lester Bach; Bolton Gregory; Joseph Gregory; Samphon Chea; Sovanny Saray; Eduardo; Joyce Coder; Ellen DeKava; Art Scarano, Son, Kyong Chang; Suzie Kermic; 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 vocations to our own Fraternity, that the Holy Spirit might inspire people to seek a closer communion with Christ and his Church through the way of Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

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 Nation as it goes through these turbulent times, and that it might not lose its way.

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

Our Fraternity:

Profession Anniversaries: Congratulations this month to:

Comfort Lartey - September 16, 2017

Fraternity Birthdays:

John Dina - September 7th

Annie Marie Pierce - September 9th

Rita Evans - September 27th

In Memoriam: May the souls of all our dear sisters and brothers, especially
Ella Newell - September 4, 1973
Doris Mason - September 9, 2007
Martha Hall - September 9, 2008
Mary Bartos - September 19, 1990
Suzanne Keenam - September 24, 1992
rest in God's Peace.

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

September – Month of the Holy Cross

1. Bl Joachim de Albocacer, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936
2. Bl. Martyrs de Carmes, d. 1792
3. St. Pius X, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1914
4. St. Rose of Viterbo, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1252 Plenary Indulgence for cordbearers
5. Bl. Gentil de Matelica, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1340
6. Bl Liberat de Laure, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1258
7. Bl. Eugenie Picco, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1921
8. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9. Bl. Seraphique Sforza, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1478
10. Bl. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order and Franciscan Third Order Seculars, d. 1622-1632
11. Bl. Bonaventure de Barcelone, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1684
12. Feast of the Name of Holy Mary
13. Bl. Apollinaire Franco, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1622
14. Feast Exaltation of the Holy Cross
15. Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows
16. Bl. Roland de Medicis, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1386

17. Feast of the Stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi
18. St. Joseph de Cupertino, Priest, Conventual, d. 1664
19. Bl. Louis Alleman, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1450
20. St. Francois-Marie de Camporosso, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1866
21. Feast of the St. Matthew, Apostle, and Bl. Elizabeth Amerina, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1498
22. Bl. Ignace de Santhia, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1773
23. St. Pio of Peitrelcina, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1968
24. St. Pacifique de San Severino, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1721
25. St. Nicholas de Flue, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1487
26. Bl. Lucie de Catalagirone, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1400
27. St. Vincent de Paul, Priest and Franciscan Third Order before establishing an order, d. 1660, and St. Elzear de Sabran, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1323
28. Bl Bernadin de Feltre, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1494
29. Feast of Saint Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels
30. Bl. Charles de Blois, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1364



St John the Beloved Apostle Fraternity
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Geneva was gracious enough to provide this information to help us respond to the topic of abortion with love and respect for everyone involved. I think this would be useful with all right to life issues.

LOVE 3 - Stand in Support of All:

I think we all know how devastating abortion is for everyone involved and how it is not the solution for which people are hoping. But you might ask, how can I be a part of the solution of making abortion unthinkable and even contribute to the healing of people affected by this evil? I have been blessed to have gone through two different trainings, each with their own unique focus. These trainings gave me the confidence to reach out to anyone about having a conversation about abortion, to stand on the sidewalk in front of an abortion clinic and engage abortion minded women and men on their way into clinic. I just knew that I wanted to be loving and effective. I wanted God to use me as His instrument of Truth, peace and love.

If you are wondering how, I was able to do these things, then I highly recommend you check out these websites below and sign up for a training. I really don't think there is anything more worthwhile that you could do now as you prepare to stand before our Lord and tell Him that you stood up for the most innocent of all, His little ones in the womb.

If starting the conversation, is what is holding you back, then check out: Love 3 Workshops — Justice For All (jfaweb.org). Here "you can learn to create conversations in which you love the woman, the child, and the person who disagrees with you equally at every moment of every conversation". You will be able to ask questions with an open heart, listen to understand and find common ground. You will plant the seeds that God will nurture into changing lives.

If you are more inclined to witness on the sidewalk by approaching women and men as they walk into the clinic, then you might want to check out: Equal Rights Institute | ERI trains pro-life advocates to think clearly, reason honestly, and argue persuasively. I took the Sidewalk Masterclass and felt equipped to start my journey of making myself available to those abortion-minded clients of the Alexandria Women's Clinic that were open to hear what I had to say and offer by way of resources. If you are more inclined to silently pray on the sidewalk in front of the clinic with no sign but a heart full of compassion, then come anytime and plan to say your rosary for the change of hearts and minds of those contemplating abortions or in need of healing.

JUSTICE FOR ALL Presents

LOVE3

WOMEN IN DISTRESS = UNBORN CHILDREN = THOSE WHO DIFFER

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Get More Details + Read Testimonials + Register.
Or, Register by Calling 316-683-6426.