

Laudato Si (Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home),

Paragraph 41 - “In tropical and subtropical seas, we find coral reefs comparable to the great forests on dry land, for they shelter approximately a million species, including fish, crabs, mollusks, sponges and algae. Many of the world’s coral reefs are already barren or in a state of constant decline. “Who turned the wonderworld of the seas into underwater cemeteries bereft of color and life?”[25] This phenomenon is due largely to pollution which reaches the sea as the result of deforestation, agricultural monocultures, industrial waste and destructive fishing methods, especially those using cyanide and dynamite. It is aggravated by the rise in temperature of the oceans. All of this helps us to see that every intervention in nature can have consequences which are not immediately evident, and that certain ways of exploiting resources prove costly in terms of degradation which ultimately reaches the ocean bed itself.” ~ Pope Francis

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

Dear sisters and brothers in Francis and Clare,

I pray all had a most blessed Christmas Season, the fraternity council wishes you and your family a joyous new year.

At our January Gathering, we will have the Franciscan Order tradition of the “Extraction of Saints”. Candidates and Professed will receive the name of a Franciscan Saint, a scripture quote for meditation and a new prayer partner for the new year. Guest and inquirers will receive a saint’s name and a scripture reading for the year.

Often, the “Extraction of Saints” is accompanied by much joviality on the part of the fraternity – lots of “oohs” and “ah’s” for the members who are lucky enough to be honored with a famous Franciscan Saint.

When you receive your prayer partner, some people prefer to keep it a secret; you can do that if you like or you may want to let your prayer partner know that you will be praying for them throughout the year.

Here are some suggestions to remember your prayer partner:

- Get to know your prayer partner better
- Ask your prayer partner if they have any special prayer intentions
- Check with your prayer partner periodically to see how things are going
- Send your prayer partner a birthday card
- Send a card, or give a call if your prayer partner is ill

Remember, we are Christ’s hands and feet in this world! Let’s reach out in prayer and action to our prayer partner this year. <http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/the-rite-of-extraction-of-saints/>

If you were unable to attend our Christmas gathering and bought gifts for our Christmas family, please bring them with you at this month’s gathering. Our sister, Karan Bevers, OFS, will make sure the family receives them.



**Our Fraternity Council
2016 - 2019**

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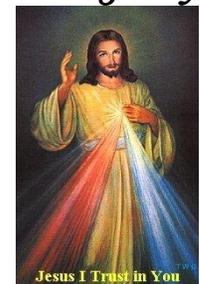
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Evening Prayer



Divine Mercy Chaplet



Please Pray For ...

Connie Baker, OFS
Marlene Feaga, OFS
Mary Ferrara, OFS
Marie Lindung, OFS
Jim Manning, OFS
Georgianna Papazian, OFS
Jim Tebo, OFS



**OUR DECEASED
BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

Deacon Tom Bello, OFS
Frances Bastress, SFO
Joe Bezila, SFO
Jerry Cichowicz, SFO
Shirley Costello, OFS
Joe Cykoski, SFO
Stella Cykoski, SFO
Claire Lee Davison, SFO
Adela Duff, SFO
Donna Duncan, SFO
Charles Ferrara, SFO
Dolores Fritz, OFS
Marilyn Gilson, SFO
Richard Hall, SFO
Joy Kubricky, OFS
Frances Langbehn, SFO
Bob Lewis, SFO
Jean Manning, OFS
Yvonne Proch, SFO
Nancy Seaton, SFO
Don Sweitzer, OFS
Betty Taylor, SFO
Bud Tenley, SFO
Regina Yeager, SFO
Dorothy Zalewski, SFO

Many thanks for your Franciscan charity in helping our needy family have a most memorable Christmas.

Also, at our January gathering, our professed sisters and brothers will renew their profession commitment as Secular Franciscans. Professed, please make every effort to attend.

Our Treasurer, Michael Radcliffe, OFS, will talk on our Financial Budget for 2018. It is important for you to know what your monthly common fund contribution is being used for.

Words of Encouragement from our Spiritual Assistant – Br. Lawrence

Happy New Year brothers and sisters,

As we begin another year passing on the calendar and another year arriving we always tend to look back upon the past year and look forward to the present, new year. It is the same ol' ritual for us all.

What do we actually consider about the past and the yet to come? I imagine that most of you, like me, look at the same thing for both years. What were (and will be) the highpoints of the year? What were (and will be) the low points of the year? In fact, we probably ask many generic questions and just as quickly forget the answers. Still, I suppose that it is good that we do the reflection. It is much like an annual reflection that imitates Saturday and Sunday.

We all know that these two days of the week are both special in that they are given to us by God. In the Old Testament God gave us the Sabbath (Saturday) to look back on the past week of six days and reflect on what we have done well and not so well. Even more specifically, how have we lived for God and for others in those past half-dozen days. A day of rest put aside to reflect on those most important relationships in our lives, the relationship with God and the relationship with others, indeed, with all of creation.

Then we find that in the New Testament we have the special day given to us again, this time with a "yet to come" orientation (Sunday). It is an opportunity, following Saturday's looking back, to challenge ourselves to living in better relationships in the week to come. It is also a day of rest put aside to reflect on what is to come.

There are some who question whether we, as Christians, have only to live with Sunday as our day of rest and reflection. There may even be some who still think that the Sabbath (Saturday) has never been really changed to Sunday and that becomes the new day of rest. It was a few years ago when St. Pope John Paul II wrote in one of his works about this exact issue. His conclusion is that we should, if possible, put aside both days. I realize that that is a lot to ask but one can surely put aside a significant amount of time each of those days and reap the rewards of that reflection and rest. One can then still keep with the traditional Saturday/Sunday routine of looking at the past week/looking to the week to come.

Try it for January and see how it goes. Speak with some others who may have chosen to try the same and see what their experience is. I do think that it will leave one with a deeper understanding of and relationship with God and for others, and for all of creation.

December – 2017

Beginning Balance:	\$ 594.34
Income	894.00
Total	\$ 1,488.34

Expenses:

Christmas Family Donation	150.00
Brother Lawrence	100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Web Fee	15.00
Total	\$ 365.00

Ending Balance: \$ 1,123.34

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contributions are tax deductible



January 21st

The Franciscan Tradition of Extraction of Saints Professed will renew their Profession Commitment
Treasurer will explain the fraternity Finance Budget for 2018

Our Franciscan Center Apostolate

Don't forget to bring your donated items to this month's gathering, please pick from below. Remember your monthly donation(s) are tax deductible.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Hand sanitizer | Soap |
| Toothbrushes | Toothpaste |
| Shampoo & Conditioner | Washcloths |
| Deodorant | Disposable razors |
| Feminine hygiene products | |

Food for Thought

We must overcome prejudices and stereotypes, phobias and naïve irenisms: humanity lives in deep conflicts that appear irreplaceable without the commitment of every person to peace.

The ruthless facts related to international terrorism tell us that we need to educate new generations by dialogue, meeting, respect for diversity, religious freedom, respecting the rights of all, especially ethnic and religious minorities. We must overcome prejudices and stereotypes, phobias and naïve irenisms: humanity lives in the deep conflicts that appear unsolvable without each person's commitment to peace, justice and respect for differences.

Even before the desire of Jesus - that brings within himself the dream of the Father, that is, to see the men and women of all time and to place siblings among themselves - Saint Francis becomes a model of unity, a tool of peace, a witness and a prophet of dialogue and communion. In fact, he understood that only by pacifying the hearts, minds, and souls, that is, oneself, it would be possible to live in this world with joy and remaining in communion with others and in harmony with all the creatures of Heaven and Earth. Francis, the Poverello, is a true witness of whom, finding peace in himself - reconciling with his own "I" - is able to discover the presence of others (brothers and sisters) as a gift received directly from the Almighty.

Unity is the sign of a long journey that humanity - and not just Christian Churches and communities - still has to do in daily life, through simple, but precious gestures of welcome, forgiveness, confrontation, charity, solidarity, fraternal and serene communication. Unity among Christians, then, must become a lifestyle, a deep tension - more than a feeling - that plumes and animates the daily work of all of us for the Gospel, for the mission, for peace.

Edoardo Scognamiglio - Theologian

January Birthdays



Mike Hotovy, OFS	01/06
Claudette Lucas, OFS	01/07
Marie Lindung, OFS	01/18
John Kirby, OFS	01/25
Jim Soltysiak, OFS	01/26
Br. Lawrence LaFlame	01/26



Remembering Your Profession

Jean Singleton, OFS	01/18/83
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Apostolate

Ranger Rosary
Claudette Lucas, OFS

In 2008, I had was introduced to a ministry called Ranger Rosary by a fraternity sister. This ministry or apostolate originated out of St. Mary Church in Annapolis.

After learning more about it, the burning in my heart was overwhelming and I was able, through the grace of God and the cooperation of the parish priest to start a group at St. Timothy in Walkersville. Many of you may know of this apostolate. This involves making rosaries for our military, our wounded military and our veterans in hospitals.

We take ordinary pony beads, parachute cord and plastic crucifixes and craft these items into rosaries that our military men and women can use. As we work the beads either by counting the number that is needed for the rosary or cutting the cord for them and making these rosaries, we pray for our military and their families at home and abroad. We never know whose hands will be the end receiver of these beads and how their lives may be changes by also handling them. When the rosaries are ready to send, our priest blesses them and I send along cards on how to pray the rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the St. Michael Prayer. They are given to new recruits and those on deployment. The chaplains give them out to all who want them and men and women of all denominations want them. The chaplains who give them out are of different denominations also.

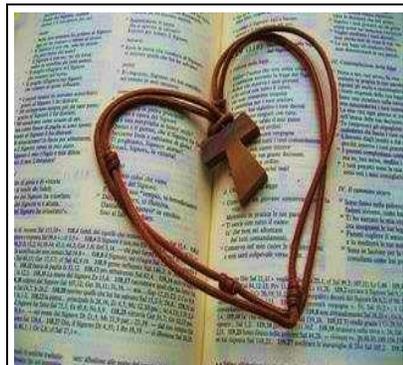
I am able to have a short item in our weekly bulletin that either has thanks from chaplains who have received not only our rosaries but rosaries from the other parishes around the Archdiocese. I also have something in that item about our Blessed Mother who gave us the Rosary as a help for our lives here. We have sent rosaries to Afghanistan and many bases in the States.

Our group has become an independent group meaning we can send from our parish after securing a base from our contact at Resurrection in Ellicott City. We have presented the Ranger Rosary to confirmandi at Ft. Detrick and to the Little Flowers in our parish along with Youth Ministry groups. Currently, there are two military chaplains who are on the ladder to Sainthood. They are both Servants of God at this point with their cases in Rome—Fr. Emil Kapaun [US Army] from the Korean War who died in captivity from a disease and Fr. Cappodanno [US Navy] from the Vietnam War who was killed in action. It is very humbling, and grace filled to do this apostolate for the men and women who are serving our country or who have served it.

OUR GATHERINGS – All should make every effort to attend our gathering every month. If you are unable to attend due to illness, work or family obligations, contact a council member (see page 1 for telephone numbers). If you are a candidate or are professed and miss a gathering, please send your check for the Common Fund to:

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General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order December 8, 2000

Article 11 The Form of Life

Mindful that the Holy Spirit is the source of their vocation and the animator of fraternal life and mission, secular Franciscans should seek to imitate the faithfulness of Francis to His inspiration. They should listen to the exhortation of the Saint to desire above all things "the Spirit of God at work within them"

"How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet"



Make the Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

Our Father.....

Hail Mary.....

The Apostles Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead; I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

On the Our Father Bead - Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the Ten Small Beads of each Decade - For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

After having completed the prayer's five decades, you recite the following, three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Concluding Prayer - Eternal 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.