



**HOLY FAMILY FRATERNITY**  
 Secular Franciscan Order  
 PO Box 4652  
 Manassas, VA 20101  
**FAITH - HOPE - CHARITY**

**Next Meeting:**  
**Saturday, April 14**  
**9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**  
**Meeting Room #1**

**ALMOST MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
**APRIL 2018**

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & EVENTS**

*Keep this handy so that each month you will know where to go and what we're doing! See you there!*

|                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday, April 14 <sup>th</sup> | Regular Meeting: Formation |
| Saturday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>   | Regular Meeting: Formation |



**Sunday May 20th**  
**Day of Pentecost**

Pentecost is the 50th day after Jesus' resurrection and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.



Take from:  
**Easter Vigil Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis**  
 March 31, 2018



"Amid our silence, our overpowering silence, the stones begin to cry out (cf. *Lk 19:40*)[1] and to clear the way for the greatest message that history has ever heard: "He is not here, for he has been raised" (*Mt 28:6*). The stone before the tomb cried out and proclaimed the opening of a new way for all. Creation itself was the first to echo the triumph of life over all that had attempted to silence and stifle the joy of the Gospel. The stone before the tomb was the first to leap up and in its own way intone a song of praise and wonder, of joy and hope, in which all of us are invited to join.

Yesterday, we joined the women in contemplating "the one who was pierced" (cf. *Jn 19:36*; cf. *Zech 12:10*). Today, with them, we are invited to contemplate the empty tomb and to hear the words of the angel: "Do not be afraid... for he has been raised" (*Mt 28:5-6*). Those words should affect our deepest convictions and certainties, the ways we judge and deal with the events of our daily lives, especially the ways we relate to others. The empty tomb should challenge us and rally our spirits. It should make us think, but above all it should encourage us to trust and believe that God "happens" in every situation and every person, and

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that his light can shine in the least expected and most hidden corners of our lives. He rose from the dead, from that place where nobody waits for anything, and now he waits for us – as he did the women – to enable us to share in his saving work. On this basis and with this strength, we Christians place our lives and our energy, our intelligence, our affections and our will, at the service of discovering, and above all creating, paths of dignity.

He is not here... he is risen! This is the message that sustains our hope and turns it into concrete gestures of charity. How greatly we need to let our frailty be anointed by this experience! How greatly we need to let our faith be revived! How greatly we need our myopic horizons to be challenged and renewed by this message! Christ is risen, and with him he makes our hope and creativity rise, so that we can face our present problems in the knowledge that we are not alone.

To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our "conventions", those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralyzing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope.

The stone before the tomb shared in this, the women of the Gospel shared in this, and now the invitation is addressed once more to you and to me. An invitation to break out of our routines and to renew our lives, our decisions and our existence. An invitation that must be directed to where we stand, what we are doing and what we are, with the "power ratio" that is ours. Do we want to share in this message of life or do we prefer simply to continue standing speechless before events as they happen?

He is not here... he is raised! And he awaits you in Galilee. He invites you to go back to the time and place of your first love and he says to you: Do not be afraid, follow me."



## ST. FRANCIS

### Prayer before the Crucifix

#### Pray for those in our fraternity:

- ♥ For the intentions of the Holy Father and for religious vocations.
- ♥ Joe: for the conversion of family members.
- ♥ Mary Lynn: Special intentions for peaceful work situation. For Norman J. Takac. For fallen away Catholics to return to the church
- ♥ Rita: For work success for Chris. Growth in faith for Christina and Catherine
- ♥ Peggy: For Joe's drug trial at the hospital in Massachusetts
- ♥ Jim: for Betty's health
- ♥ For the poor, sick and helpless.

Most High,  
Glorious God  
enlighten the  
darkness of my  
heart and give me  
true faith, certain  
hope, and perfect  
charity, sense  
and knowledge,  
Lord, that I may  
carry out Your holy  
and true command.

