



Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, OFS

Hampton Roads, Virginia

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this letter the beautiful feast of the Assumption of Mary is soon to come. This feast demonstrates the great love and respect Our Lord had for his Blessed Mother in that she is the only human to be taken into heaven body and soul. Because of her Immaculate Conception she was freed from all bodily corruption and this wonderful feast was proclaimed a dogma of the Church in 1950 by Pope Pius XII. Vatican II in *Lumen Genitum* states that “the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, when her earthly life was over, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things.”

Looking at Mary it is easy to see how Francis had such a great love for her. A woman of simplicity yet a woman with a tremendous faith and hope. We find Mary quietly in the background most of the time except for a couple of instances; yet we can be sure that as a mother she knew everything her Child was doing! She truly embodies what Francis meant when he said “Preach the Gospel; if necessary use words.”

August also contains the feasts of St. Clare and St. Maximilian Kolbe. St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest, gave up his life to save a fellow prisoner who was married and had a family. Pope Francis on his visit to Auschwitz prayed in the cell where Maximilian Kolbe was held before his martyrdom.

St. Clare was always “keeping her heart poor and lowly” as she followed Francis. It is interesting that Clare’s feast comes so close to the Marian feast of the Assumption. Again, we have a young girl who gives herself over completely to God and in her deep faith tells him she will do whatever he asks no matter the consequences. Her faith never falters even after she experiences hardships as the results of saying “yes” to the Spirit. Meditating on these two faith-filled women can help us with discernment in our own lives.

How many times do we say “yes” to God in spite of our misgivings and fears? Our lack of courage can lead us to hide from God. Our misgivings lead us to arrogance which Pope Francis calls our corruption where we insist we know better what is good for us and where God does not “understand” our needs and our hearts. We come to him with our wounds to be healed and yet we enter this corruption of being self sustaining instead of relying on his divine mercy and forgiveness.

It is the beautiful examples of Maximilian Kolbe, Clare, and Mary that can help us in our weaknesses and our humanity. These two saints and our Blessed Mother are always there for us, to guide us to Christ with their gentleness and their wisdom. How lucky we are to have them as guides!

Pax et bonum,

Chris Wells, Minister

Meeting Sunday, August 21:

We will be meeting at the St. Bede Annex 4551 John Tyler Highway Williamsburg (Five Forks)

12:00 Candidates meet

1:30 Whole group gathers

Opening prayers

Reflection

1:45 Formation - Lyman Hubbard will speak on Kairos prison ministry

2:45 Break

3:15 Business meeting

3:45 LOH

4:00 Fellowship

Thank You:

Thank you to Peg Crews for a beautiful lesson on two of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Thank you, for all your hard work!

Novena To St. Clare at the Bethlehem Monastery, Barhamsville: (please check with the Monastery to be sure)

August 2-9 Novena 7:00 pm each evening

August 10 Vigil Mass for the feast 6:30 PM

August 11 Mass for the Solemnity of St. Clare 8:00 AM

Mark Your Calendars:

The Diocesan Men's Conference will be September 10 at the Double Tree Hotel in Williamsburg. The Women's Conference will be September 24 at the downtown Richmond Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Fraternity Ministries:

Please remember to bring an item to the meeting for either HOPE or the Pineapple Motel. The baskets will be at the meeting and any fresh items for the children will be delivered to the Pineapple right away. Fruit cups and fresh fruit are popular with the children at the Pineapple. Diapers for older babies, wipes, and personal feminine products are needed at HOPE. Thank you for your generosity to both these ministries. ***Thank you to all who have been bringing paper products for St. Olaf's but we are no longer taking items to their pantry. Instead we are contributing diapers and personal feminine products to HOPE. Thank you again for your generosity!***

Peninsula Pet Pantry:

Thank you to all who have contributed pet food to the pet pantry. However, **since we are no longer able to deliver the products to the pantry in Newport News** we will not be collecting pet food. Thank you again!

August Happy Birthdays:

1 Ed Gerhard

19 Carol Folsom

30 Terry Carlino



Prayer List:

Joan Buehler, OFS
Daphne Pritchett, OFS
Carol Murphy, OFS
Denny Thiel, OFS
Chuck Stephan, OFS
Stephen Link, husband of Sandra Link, OSF
Family of Ed Gerhard, OFS
Family of Deanne Marshall, OFS
Family of Carol Folsom, OFS
Family of Ann Pepper, OFS
Family of Sister Patricia, LSOFS
Michael Wilson and family
All travelers
Youth Ministry at St. Jerome
Our nation
Victims of terrorism and for world peace especially
in the Middle East
Families at the Pineapple Inn and HOPE
Our Fraternity and our Franciscan Family
Our Anniversarians
Those who have no one to pray for them.

Deceased:

Marlin Massey - husband of Barbara Massey, OFS
Walter Tucker - father of Bea Sanford, OFS
Jack Wells - brother of Leo Wells, OFS
Wyn McPhee - fiancé of Anne Pepper, OFS
Nancy Ullman - sister of Glenn Davis, OFS
Frances Warren, OFS
Geraldine Murphy - mother of Margaret Murphy,
OFS
George Willard - father of Deanne Marshall, OFS
Delores Collins, sister of Ed Gerhard, OFS

August Dates To Remember:

2 **Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula**
7 Bl. Agathangelus and Caspian
11 **Solemn feast of St. Clare of Assisi**
14 St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, martyr
15 **Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary**
19 Louis, bishop
22 Queenship of Mary
24 St. Bartholomew
25 Louis IX, King Patron of the Order

MANY PEOPLE CONFUSE FOR-
GIVENESS WITH JUSTIFYING THE
WRONG OR DENYING THE OTHER
PERSON'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE PAIN THEY HAVE
CAUSED. FORGIVENESS DOES
NOT EXCUSE ANY ACT. IT IS SIMP-
LY AN ACTION OF LOVE FROM THE
HEART THAT LETS GO OF THE
FEELINGS OF RESENTMENT TO-
WARDS ANOTHER PERSON.

~ G.K. CHESTERTON ~

