



Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, OFS

Hampton Roads, Virginia

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www.olrsfo.weebly.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Minister

Chris Wells OFS

Vice Minister

Leo Wells OFS

Secretary

Deanne Marshall OFS

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Ed Gerhard OFS

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Sister Agnes Narocho LSOFS

Lately the topic of “illegal immigrants” has been very much at the forefront of the news. After listening to the discussions and debates for several months I have to wonder how Francis would have reacted to some of the rhetoric being used concerning the new arrivals as well as many of the people who are already here in our country. Several of the arguments propose that the “Mexicans” and/or “illegals” are responsible for crime, taking jobs from “legal” Americans and commit quite a lot of birthright fraud in addition to other negative activities. In essence they should be marginalized and denied because they bring bad things to our society and take away from its citizens. Again, what would Francis have advised the friars to do and say?

It appears that in the safety of using the word “illegal”, people feel free to criticize and judge another group of people. By using different terminology rather than words that express an underlying prejudice and fear as a society we tell ourselves that we have really only been speaking forthrightly and conducting an intellectual argument on an issue of our times.

Fear is a terrible thing and when we begin to fear our neighbor because he/she is “different” in culture, language, appearance, outlook, then we have opened the door to the excuse-making that salves our consciences but actually is our own prejudice at work. We need to ask ourselves why we dislike and fear these groups of people. What can we as Franciscans do to alleviate their suffering and help eradicate the ignorance that accompanies poverty. We need to be very careful that we do not harbor a personal void in the spirit that prevents us from experiencing a compassionate perspective. We need to pray for the wisdom to see deeply within ourselves and find the “lepers” that each of us needs to embrace in his/her own spirituality.

God always brings good out of hardship. Perhaps the happenings of the past few months have brought about the good of forcing us to look into our dark side and shine light in the corners of our hearts. It is interesting that people in Christ’s time felt that “nothing good ever came out of Galilee” and yet the Salvation of the World Himself “came out of Galilee”!

Pax et bonum,

Chris Wells, Minister

September Meeting:

- 12:00 Candidates meet
- 1:30 Whole group meets
- Opening prayers
- Reflection from Sister Agnes
- 2:00 Ongoing formation (see below)
- 3:00 Break
- 3:20 Business meeting
- 3:45 Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer
- Closing Prayers
- 4:00 Fellowship

Carol Murphy will conduct a prayer service for the feast of the Stigmata of Father Francis. Maria Fuentes-Sherman will give an overview of Puerto Rican saints and Cindy Holland will talk about Father Junipero Serra, a Spanish born Franciscan friar who will be canonized during the Pope's visit to the US.

Professions:

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 14**. Bea Sanford, Ani Kelly, and Cindy Holland will be professed during the 5:30 pm Mass at St. Bede's parish on Ironbound Road. It is important that we attend this Mass as a fraternity to show support and welcome our newly professed members!

Transitus:

The Transitus will take place on October 3 at a place to be announced. This ceremony celebrates the passing of St. Francis from the earthly life to eternal life with Christ in heaven. Franciscans should try and fast (within the age limits) and abstain that day until the Transitus takes place. Once the ceremony is over then the celebration may begin in joy for Francis's now being with Christ! However, if you are not able to fast or abstain it is **not** sinful.

Pet Medals:

If your parish is blessing the animals for the feast of St. Francis and you are able to be present for it, there will be pet medals, holy cards and fraternity brochures at the September meeting. Bea Sanford will have them. Please make sure that you will be the one passing out the medals, etc. at your parish. Do not leave them for your pastor or deacon to distribute! That way you can answer questions from anyone who may be interested in our Franciscan way of life.

World Day of Care For Creation:

The Holy Father has designated September 1 to be World Day of Care For Creation. This is a good day for each of us to take stock of our own personal stewardship of the earth. Not running the water when unnecessary, shorter showers, recycling, cleaning out closets and donating to charity, are all things we can do to be good stewards!

Visit of Pope Francis:

The Holy Father will be in the United States from September 22-27 and will visit the cities of New York, Washing-

ton, DC and Philadelphia. He will be present for the World Meeting of Families on Sept. 26,27. For more information on the Pope's visit and to see the full itinerary please go the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website <uscbb.org>

Canonization of Bl. Junipero Serra:

The Pope will canonize Blessed Junipero Serra during a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 23. Father Junipero was a Franciscan friar who founded many of the missions in California.

Rosary Decade for Peace:

Please continue to say one decade of the rosary each day with the mystery you received in May. If you were not able to attend the May meeting, please say a decade of the rosary daily with a mystery of your choice. By doing this our fraternity as a group says a Franciscan Crown Rosary daily for peace in the Middle East and an end to the violence.

Fraternity Ministries:

Please remember to bring an item to the meeting for either the St. Olaf Food Pantry 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. Thank you for your generosity to both these ministries.

Amazon Project:

Please remember your change for the Amazon Relief and the Heifer International Project. Thank you, Carol Murphy for heading this up.

Peninsula Pet Pantry:

The Peninsula Pet Pantry is a nonprofit organization providing temporary pet food, supplies, and veterinarian care to pet owners who are facing financial difficulties. Many of these pet owners are elderly or disabled and their pet is an emotional support to them. There is also a Pet Pantry in the Williamsburg area that can use volunteers. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, contact Carol Folsom <carolfolsom@cox.net> or <www.gmhumanesociety> .

September Happy Birthdays:

28 Joan Buhler



Prayer List:

Joan Buehler, OFS
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
Pope Francis's visit and the World Meeting of Families
All travelers
Youth Ministry at St. Jerome
Our Anniversarians
Our nation
Victims of terrorism
World peace especially in the Middle East
Families at the Pineapple Inn and St. Olaf Pantry Ministries
Our Fraternity and our Franciscan Family
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 Annie Pepper, OFS
Nancy Ullman - sister of Glenn Davis, OFS
Frances Warren, OFS
Geraldine Murphy - mother of Margaret Murphy, OFS

September Dates To Remember:

1 World Day of Care For Creation
Bl. Beatrice of Silva

2 Bls. John Francis Burte, Severin Girault and companions
4 Rose of Viturbo
8 Nativity of Mary
12 Most Holy Name of Mary
14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
15 Our Lady of Sorrows
17 Stigmata of St. Francis
18 St. Joseph of Cupertino
21 St. Matthew
22-27 *Visit of the Holy Father to the US*
23 Finding of the Body of St. Clare
24 Elzear of Sabran and B. Delphina (husband and wife)
29 Feast of the Archangels
30 St. Jerome

While it is true that migrations often reveal failures and shortcomings on the part of States and the international community, they also point to the aspiration of humanity to enjoy a unity marked by respect for differences, by attitudes of acceptance and hospitality which enable an equitable sharing of the world's goods, and by the protection and the advancement of the dignity and centrality of each human being.

~Pope Francis -8/5/13, Migrants and Refugees~