



Our Lady of the Rosary Secular Franciscan Fraternity Williamsburg, Virginia

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Minister Reflections — Maria Fuentes-Sherman, OFS

Peace, Franciscan kindred in Christ,

This being the month of secular love, I'd like to share a memory & lesson received. Some years back my life changed drastically; my beloved, the love of my life, had died on his birthday while I was at work. Desolate, I couldn't decide what to do first. A friend told me to call a Funeral home, and very soon a representative was at my door.

While waiting, I had tried to contact my parish church with no results. The Funeral Home representative told me of a new priest at St. Olaf. The priest promptly answered, and When I explained the reason for my call, all he said was "What's your address?"

At his arrival he blessed my husband, Mom and me. This man of God, without preaching a single word, drove away the darkness and bitterness I felt at not being able to say goodbye. His quick quiet response to my need woke a new respect for my religion. This cradle Catholic thought she was living a life of faith. I learned that night that I had been coasting, doing very little, other than sporadically financially supporting the Church, to live my faith. I learned a smile, a touch, a hug, is the most precious act we can share with someone else, and it doesn't cost a thing.

So I ask, in this month of cupids, chocolates and roses, how are you letting the world know of your belief that the babe born a few weeks ago is our Savior? How do you live the Franciscan life with actions rather than words? Didn't Fr. Francis say to preach without speaking, and speak only when necessary? Living a life of prayer is commendable, but we are Secular Franciscans. As such we have a duty to help others, even if only with a word of comfort or thanks, a smile, a hug.

I began this with "Peace." I will end with the same word. May the grace of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you as you show your neighbor the love of Christ by your actions.

Peace,

Maria

Be like an adventurer, exploring not worlds but minds

February 2020

Important Dates:

- 2/3 Chris Wells—Birthday
- 2/16 Meeting — Fr. Walsh Room
12:30 pm Members Gather for
Lunch and Fellowship
1:30 pm Opening Prayer

A reminder, the following members offered to bring these food items for the children at the Pineapple Inn on a monthly basis. We also collect diapers for infants to 27 lbs. for the Hope Baby Care Center

Food for Pineapple Inn

- Rick C. 2 cans chicken noodle soup
- Karen C. 2 cans split pea soup
- Paul R. 2 cans vegetable beef soup
- Bea S. 1 bag small tangerines
- Donna K. Rice and Beans
- Chuck & Marie S. 1 bag each apples & pears
- Maria F. 1 bunch green bananas
- Chris & Leo W. 2 microwave single meals
- Carol M. 2 packs fruit cups
- Eileen M. 2 packs pudding cups and 2 packs of juice boxes
- Peg C. 2 packs small individual cereal boxes
- Sandra L. 2 boxes pasta
- Barbara M. & Glenda H. 4 jars pasta sauce
- Ani K. Raman Noodles
- Terry C. Tuna



Ecumenism: Another facet of our charism ~ Secretary, Bea Sanford, OFS

I am proud to be a member of Saint Bede Catholic Church and I am grateful that the pastors have allowed our Fraternity to gather for our monthly meetings in their facility. However, after learning that a vocal minority of individuals whose actions prevented our parish from hosting the ordination of Susan Bunton Hayes as an Episcopalian bishop on Saturday, February 1, I am embarrassed for our parish. I was looking forward to witnessing the ordination of a fellow Christian woman to an important leadership role in the Episcopal Church. I was imagining the fallen away Catholics coming back to the fold as they were reminded about the sacraments, the beauty, and the hospitality of Saint Bede Catholic Church.

Community is an important component of our Franciscan spirituality and I saw the event as an Ecumenical event in the life of our Church. As I understand, our Seraphic Father Francis was a proponent of Ecumenism before there was a word for it. In the year 1219 Saint Francis of Assisi traveled to Egypt and risked his life when he reached out to Muslim leader al-Malik al-Kamil to talk about religion. According to Dr. Benjamin J. Vail, OFS "The truth, then, is that St. Francis' purpose was to evangelize the Muslims. He was inspired by God to preach the gospel to the sultan. He boldly, bravely, and unapologetically proposed the truths of the Catholic faith to him at great personal risk. He did so with respect – peacefully, humbly, without denigrating or attacking Islam, and with good will. In this sense, he is a good model for interreligious dialogue today. It is vital for Catholics to be able to talk with people of other faiths – to be able to share the gospel truth, to be able to listen respectfully, and to look for common ground."

After the initiation of a nationwide petition to prevent this ordination at Saint Bede, the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia announced the location of the ordination was moved to Williamsburg Community Chapel. After reflecting on the scriptures for the Week of Christian Unity, particularly the verse from Matthew 12: 22-32 "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and no town or house divided against itself will stand" I have decided to attend this Ordination scheduled for 11:00 a.m. at the Williamsburg Community Chapel located 3899 John Tyler Highway. I hope everyone you will consider attending this Ordination, particularly those who are members of Saint Bede, as a witness to our Franciscan spirituality. We can meet at Saint Bede and carpool together to the Ordination. Contact me if you are interested in attending.



Please keep Gerald DellaSala in your thoughts and prayers. He has had a setback in his recovery and is grateful for the prayers to the Divine Physician.



Service Project Opportunity

Maria has asked for bags of wrapped sugar free candy and/or small stuffed animals to fill Easter baskets for the homebound and nursing home residents. If you want to help, please bring donations to the next meeting. Thank you!



Franciscan Gift Exchange



Members of the fraternity prepared gift bags for the 47 residents of the group homes managed by the Franciscan Brethren of St. Philip



February-Month of the Holy Family

1. Bl. Patrick O'Loughran, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr d. 1612
2. Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
3. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, lay brothers and Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1597
4. St. Joseph de Leonisse, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1612
5. St. Jane of Valois, Virgin, the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1505
6. Bl. Pius IX, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d.1878
7. St. Egide-Marie de St. Joseph, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order d. 1812
8. Bl. Anthony of Stroncone, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1461
9. Bl. Clare of Rimini, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1346
10. Bl. Alojzije Stepinac, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1960
11. Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1858
12. Bl. Andre Ferrari, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1921
13. St. Eustochium of Messine, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1485
14. Bl. Philippa Mareri, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1263
15. Translation of the relics of St. Anthony
16. Bl. Veridiana, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1242
17. Bl. Luke Belludi, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1286
18. St. Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin, cordbearer, d. 1879 Plenary Indulgence possible for the Cord-bearers only
19. St. Conrad de Plaisance, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1351
20. Bl. Peter of Treja, Priest religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1304
21. St. Margaret of Cortona, penitent, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1297
22. Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
23. Bl. Isabelle of France, Virgin of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1270
24. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1689
25. Bl. Sebastian of Aparicio, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1600
26. Bl. Antonia of Florence, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533
27. Bl. Louise Albertoni, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1533
28. Bl. Jeremie de Valachie, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1625