



Our Lady of the Rosary Secular Franciscan Fraternity Williamsburg, Virginia

Monday, January 28, 2019



Minister's Reflections — Terry Carlino, OFS

As for every month of the year February is littered with the feasts of Franciscan saints and martyrs. On the third we celebrate the Martyrs of Japan which included not only members of the Friars Minor, but also numerous members of the Third Order, both religious and secular. Also in this month we celebrate the feast of not one but two popes who were members of our order. Blessed Pius IX and Blessed Innocent XI. Among the many Friars, Poor Clares and TOR priests, bothers and sisters are a number of blessed who were Secular Franciscans.

The point of honoring those who have preceded us in the journey to Heaven is not to celebrate the accomplishments of these individuals, be they acknowledged as Saints or Blessed. It is look at their lives and perceive a pattern which we can follow that will allow us to accept as fulling and humbly as they did in following the path of our Lord and Savior. We follow Francis because he points the way to Christ. Like the Blessed Mother that Francis so honored, our Seraphic Father Francis always strove to emulate Christ. To become more Christ-like. He succeeded so well that God bestowed on him the Stigmata, a sign, a contradiction for the world.

We live in a world where we are constantly told that we must strive for control, when Christ has always taught that control does not belong to us. It belongs to the Father. Francis knew this. More he lived this, so totally that he entrusted his very day to day life to Divine Providence. I will fully admit that I fall far short of Francis in this. I expect we all do, though some less so than others.

Few of us can take the giant leap of faith that Francis took that day in Assisi when he gave up everything to follow Christ's footsteps. If we feel we are failures because of that, we are being too hard on ourselves. But if we do not at least try to be better at trusting God, then we are being too easy on ourselves. We must take that step toward turning our lives completely over to God. One small step at a time and eventually, with God's help, Francis' prayers and the Holy Mother's intervention hopefully we will make it.

Important Dates:

- 123 Chris Wells—Birthday
- 2/17 Meeting — Fr. Walsh Room
 - 1:00 Members gather
 - 1:30 Opening Prayer

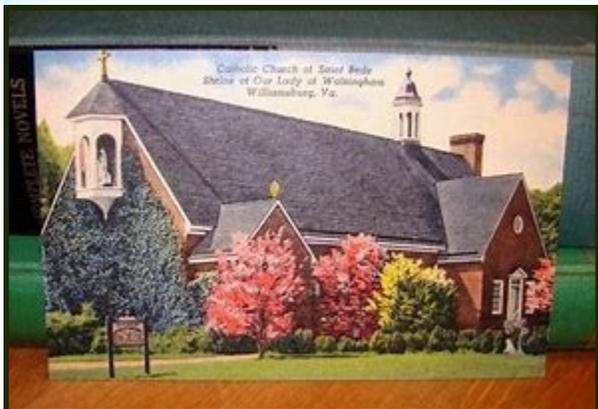
A reminder, the following members offered to bring these food items for the children at the Pineapple Inn on a monthly basis. We also collect diapers for infants to 27 lbs. for the Hope Baby Care Center

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 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



Reflections From the Vice Minister/Acting Secretary Bea Sanford, OFS



Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to Mark 77th Anniversary, Saturday February 2

Mass in celebration of the Shrine's consecration and Feast of the Presentation of the Lord will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, First Saturday Devotions and Benediction beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 520 Richmond Road Williamsburg

Saint Patrick's Day Party, Sunday March 10

The Saint Bede Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus are jointly sponsoring this adult only party at Kaplan Parish Hall from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be food beverages, music, and other Irish entertainment for the price of \$30 per person. Tickets are limited in supply and will be available for advance purchase only the weekends of February 16, 23, and March 5. Contact Bea Sanford if you are interested in obtaining tickets.



Circular letter of the Conference of General Ministers of the Franciscan First Order and Third Order Regular to all the friars and the brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) and Franciscan Youth (YouFra) on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the promulgation of the OFS Rule

Dear sisters and brothers, may the Lord give you peace!

Forty years: a symbolic period

On June 24, 1978, the Holy See approved the renewed Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with the publication of the apostolic letter *Seraphicus Patriarcha*. It was the recently canonized Pope St. Paul VI, himself a postulant Franciscan tertiary in his youth, who gave this gift to the Franciscan family just a few weeks before his death. Forty years have passed since the promulgation, and this anniversary seems to us a fitting occasion to address to you this celebratory letter. As is well known, in the Bible the number forty is charged with symbolic meaning; the span of forty years is first of all a generation and also seems to be the time for mature decisions. Therefore, this seems an opportune moment to thank the Lord for all that the sisters and brothers of the OFS are already living and to give new encouragement to their presence, which is invaluable for the whole Franciscan family.

The Secular Franciscan Order in the Franciscan family

“The Seraphic Patriarch Saint Francis of Assisi, during his life and even after his beautiful death, not only attracted many to serve God in the religious family founded by him but also drew numerous members of the laity to enter his communities while remaining in the world as far as possible.” Thus the beginning of the apostolic letter of Pope St. Paul VI, issued in 1978, recalls how various lifestyles of Christian discipleship in the Church emerged from the experience of St. Francis.

“Among the spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church [cf. *Lumen gentium* 43], the Franciscan family unites all the members of the People of God: laity, religious, and priests, all of whom recognize the call to Christian discipleship in the footprints of St. Francis of Assisi. (Pope Venerable Pius XII, *Speech to Tertiaries I*, 1.7.1956). In different ways and forms, but in a living and mutual communion, they aim to make present their common charism of the Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.” (cf. *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 4,8; *OFSRule I*, n. 1)

It would seem that the possibility of serving the Lord fully in every state of life was already in the intuition of Francis. Thus, in some sense he anticipated the wisdom that every Christian in the Church is called to holiness, that wisdom that Vatican II emphasized strongly and Pope Francis has recently recalled in his apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate*: “Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord – each in his or her own way – to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect.” (n. 10, quoting *Lumen gentium* 11) In fact, the Franciscan Third Order (today the Secular Franciscan Order) has been enriched in its history by many figures of holiness; it is enough to think of Angela of Foligno, Bridget of Sweden, Catherine of Genoa, Elizabeth of Hungary, Gianna Beretta Molla, John Bosco, John XIII, Giuseppe Moscati, King Louis IX of France, Margaret of Cortona, Pius X, and Thomas More, just to



consideration for the poorest and most needy, after the example of our Seraphic Father Francis, who “was particularly concerned for God’s creation and for the poor and outcast. [...] He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.” (*Laudato si’* 10) Such an complex and demanding task requires a proactive and effective collaboration, as well as visible communion, among the members of the Franciscan family. In our time, the contribution to this collaboration of the brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order is a particularly urgent necessity.

A mutual care

Collaboration and communion among the members of the Franciscan family, today more than ever, must express itself in a reciprocity of care and mutual enrichment. “In Church Communion the states of life by being ordered one to the other are thus bound together among themselves. [...] They are different yet complementary, in the sense that each of them has a basic and unmistakable character which sets each apart, while at the same time each of them is seen in relation to the other and placed at each other’s service.

(Pope St. John Paul II, *Christifideles laici*, 55; italics original)

On the one hand, the Church has entrusted to the friars of the First Order and TOR the spiritual and pastoral care of the OFS, as is recalled in the Rule: “As a concrete sign of communion and co-responsibility, the councils on various levels, in keeping with the constitutions, shall ask for suitable and well prepared religious for spiritual assistance. They should make this request to the superiors of the four religious Franciscan families, to whom the Secular Fraternity has been united for centuries.” (OFS Rule, chapter III, n. 26)

On the other hand, those belonging to the OFS are called to express the secular aspect of the Franciscan charism, which is what characterizes their spirituality and apostolic life, living fully their specific call, supporting also by their prayer and action the vocation of the friars with whom they share the charism.

Conclusion

Dear sisters and brothers, on this fortieth anniversary of the approval of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, we invite you to thank the Lord for the gift of our common Franciscan vocation and to renew your apostolic zeal that each might live his or her own mission in a creative way.

For our part we ask for all of you an abundance of divine blessings through the intercession of the our Seraphic Father St. Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Franciscan family.

Fr. Roberto Genuin, OFM^{Cap}

Minister Generalis

Fr. Nicholas Polichnowski, TOR

Minister Generalis

Fr. Marco Tasca, OFM^{Conv}

Minister Generalis

Fr. Michael Anthony Perry, OFM



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
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

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