

Friday, January 04, 2019



## Our Lady of the Rosary Secular Franciscan Fraternity Williamsburg, Virginia

### Minister's Reflections — Terry Carlino, OFS

The Church in its liturgical cycle sometimes makes decisions that might cause us to pause and wonder. For example during in the Christmas Octave, the eight days which follow the celebration of the Nativity, the Church celebrates the feasts of St. Stephen, the first martyr, as well as the feast of the Holy Innocents. So in effect we move immediately from the celebration of the birth of the incarnate God, to the deaths of not only the first martyr to deliberately give up his life, Stephen, but also to the innocents, who due only to circumstance, being born in the wrong place at the wrong time, gave up their lives. Of course the Church usually recognizes the heavenly birthday, the day of death of a martyr, on the day the martyr actually died, but not always and the death of St. Stephen is long enough ago that his actual day of death is likely not Dec 26. So the placement of this day was likely a choice the Church made. The question might be asked why? Why celebrate the death of a martyr during a season which is dedicated to the birth of the incarnate God? Perhaps to remind us that, contrary to secular public opinion, death is not the final act which must be avoided at all costs. Some things are more important than the preservation of one's own life, sometimes the acknowledgement of the role and place of God in our lives. Francis, as a deacon himself, was no doubt, well aware of the sacrifice that Stephen made. He himself did not hesitate to place his life in God's hands on numerous occasions. He had to know his peril when attempting to convert the Saracens in Egypt. We likely will not be asked to give up our own lives as did Stephen, yet in a way that is exactly what we've promised to do. In some ways it might be easier to make one fateful decision to live or die for Christ, than it is to make the hundreds of decisions we must make each day to live or die for Christ. So as we move in January, out of the Christmas season into Ordinary Time lets us dedicate ourselves to making Stephen's choice each day, to live for Christ as did Francis.

### Important Dates:

- 1/10 Donna Kendall—Birthday
- 1/20 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



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

Did you know that our own Sandra Link is related to royalty? St. Elizabeth of Portugal was born in Saragossa Spain around 1271 and is the great grandmother (about 20 greats). St. Elizabeth was the daughter of King Pedro III of Aragon and Queen Constanza and was named for her great-aunt St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She died on July 4th, and thus her name marks this date on the Church calendar, silently attesting to the existence of a good woman who in her passage through this earth had it all and turned it all to good. According to Maria J Cirurgiao and Michael D Hull who wrote for EWTN, Elizabeth grew up in a family of six brothers and sisters. Her childhood days were regularly divided between her studies, her sewing, her prayers (she accompanied her captain at the Divine Office on a daily basis) and recreation. She was deemed a great beauty, very early in life. Before Elizabeth entered her teen years, several European monarchs sought her hand. King Edward IV of England solicited her for his son, the crown prince; as did the king of Sicily, the king of France, and others. As was the custom, Elizabeth's parents weighed the political advantage of each proposed match. The greatest benefit, they concluded would ensue from a matrimonial alliance with King Dinis of Portugal. Elizabeth became his wife, by proxy. She was around 12 years of age while King Dinis 20.

To read the entire article <http://www.ewtn.com/library/MARY/ELIZPORT.HTM>

## Fraternity Spreading Comfort and Joy

Thanks to the generosity of the members of our fraternity, and our guest Diane Rackauskas, 30 men and 17 women who are cared for by the Franciscan Brethren of St. Philip (aka Little Sisters of St. Francis) received gift bags full of toiletries and essential care items.





## January—Month of the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Childhood

1. Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord—Holy Day of Obligation; Plenary Indulgence possible (Chant in public Veni Creator)
2. Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
3. Bl. Chriatiane Menaburi, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1310
4. Bl. Angela of Foligno, widow, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1310
5. Bl. Pierre Bonilli, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1935
6. Feast of the Epiphany
7. St. Charles of Sezze, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1670
8. Bl. Roger de Toddi, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1237
9. Bl. Gilles de Lorenzana, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1518
10. Bl. Gregory X, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1276
11. St. Thomas of Cori, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1729
12. St. Bernard of Corleone, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1667
13. Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
14. Bl. Oderic de Pordenone, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1331
15. Bl. James of Pieve, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, martyr d. 1304
16. Sts. Berard and Companions, Protomartyrs of the Order, d. 1220
17. Sl. Matthew of Girgenti, Bishop, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1451
18. Bl. Jeanne of Saint Mary, virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1360
19. Bl. Marcel Spinola y Maestre, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1906
20. Bl. Jean-Baptiste Triquerie, priest, conventual religious, martyr d. 1794
21. Bl. Joseph Nascimbeni, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1922
22. St. Vincent Pallotti, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1850
23. Feast of the Marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary
24. Bl. Paula Gambarara-Costa, widow, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1515
25. Bl. Emmanuel Dominguo y Sol, priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1909
26. Bl. Georges Matulwicz, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1927
27. St. Angela Merici, virgin, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1540
28. Bl. Bienvenu de Recanati, priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1289
29. St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, Codbearer, d. 1622
30. St. Hyacintha de Mariscotti, virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular, d. 1640
31. St. John Bosco, priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1888

