



Our Lady of the Rosary
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Williamsburg, Virginia

www.olsrfo.weebly.com

July 2020

Important Dates:

7/10 Chuck Stephan – Birthday

7/17 Carol Murphy – Birthday

7/19 Meeting – Location TBD

My very much missed Sisters & Brothers,

Another month is flying by, yet stay at home & “social distancing” makes the daily hours crawl. True, there are many ways to fill the hours, whether learning a new skill, reorganizing for the umpteenth time closets, cabinets, bookshelves, doing our hobbies, virtual meetings or get-togethers - let’s not forget Liturgy of the hours and virtual Mass!.....and so on and so on. The possibilities are never-ending, yet eventually; BORING!!! Especially if you live alone. All those things we did with & for others we can't do. And many weigh their own value & identity by their work, whether career or volunteering activities. So I thought I'd share this.

“A pencil maker told the pencil 5 important lessons just before putting it in the box:

- 1) Everything you do will always leave a mark.
- 2) You can always correct the mistakes you make.
- 3) What is important is what is inside you.
- 4) In life, you will undergo painful sharpening, which will only make you better.
- 5) To be the best possible pencil, you must allow yourself to be guided by the hand that holds you.

We all need to be constantly sharpened. This parable may encourage you to know that each of you is a special person with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant or cannot be changed. Like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are is what’s inside you and then allow yourself to be guided by the hand of God.”

Won't you share with us to which apostolate the hand of God has guided you? You can send snail mail or email me at qkfs13@gmail.com

Until we meet again, may God's peace and his many blessings abide with you,

Maria, Minister

Be as an adventurer, Exploring not new worlds but minds



During the COVID-19 meeting restriction, if you wish to continue your monthly fraternity donation please send your check to treasurer, Barbara Massey, 862 Ventnor Drive, Newport News, VA 23608-8927. Please make checks payable to SFO.



Visit our website at olsrfo.weebly.com

Richard Churray, Vice-Minister

On June 3, 2020, Rick and Barbara Churray and 175 other people marched a half mile from the old courthouse area to the new county courthouse in the Mathews March for Racial Justice. Once at the courthouse we assembled on the lawn. We listened to several community leaders and pastors from several churches. Then we were asked to kneel for 8 minutes and 46 seconds in silence to represent the time that George Floyd's neck was held in place by a police officer. It was a solemn and peaceful event. The kneeling time was tearful as I tried to imagine a knee on my neck until I died!

The Mathews community came out to show their support for Black lives and racial justice. Mathews County has a population of roughly 9000 people. The county is politically divided and primarily white.

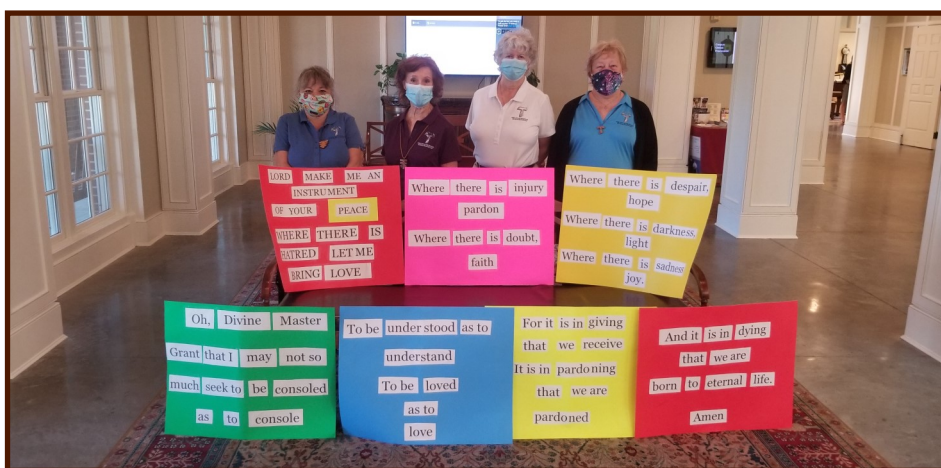
The 24 hours leading up to the march were filled with rumors, such as Antifa is coming, there will be violence, and busloads of outsiders will arrive. None of the rumors materialized. The marchers were peaceful, respectful, wore masks, and socially distanced themselves. The purpose of the march was to raise awareness of injustice to people of color and protest the ingrained, systemic racism in this country. The purpose was fulfilled and ended peacefully. Many of us realized this march is just a beginning and there is much more work to do.



On Sunday, June 14, 2020 several Franciscans held signs in front of Saint Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg, Virginia. Father Joe Lehman granted the small group of Franciscans permission to hold up the signs with the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi on the Feast of Corpus Christi in response to the social unrest of the past few weeks. Bea Sanford OFS, Peg Crews OFS, Susan James OFS, Cindy Holland OFS, Chris Wells OFS, Donna Kendall OFS, and James Kendall (K of C) stood outside of Saint Bede Church before the 8:30 and 11:30 Masses as parishioners drove into the parking lot so that anyone reading the signs could pray with us for PEACE. There was even a parishioner and his daughter who joined us before the 8:30 Mass to assist us with holding the signs. Many parishioners drove slowly and read each sign as they passed by; some parishioners cheered, gave us a thumbs up, or blessed us as they joined us in prayer. It was a very meaningful experience for those who participated. Lord, continue to make us instruments of your peace in this turbulent world.

Pace e bene,

Donna Kendall, OFS



Picture from left to right: Donna Kendall, OFS, Susan James OFS, Peg Crews OFS, Cindy Holland OFS

A message from Jim Kendall ...

Franciscan Brothers and Sisters

I had the pleasure of helping a few of the Franciscan members on Sunday morning. These dedicated members stood outside St. Bede's church for both masses. They held signs that had the entire Prayer of St. Francis. Each family that arrived for Mass got a positive reminder of the importance of St. Francis' message of peace. I can honestly say that this was one of the most positive experiences I've been involved in. Each family clapped, gave a high five or thumbs up, and I saw more smiles than I've seen all year long. With the difficulties we've all faced this year, it was a breath of fresh air to be part of such a positive experience.

These types of activities are appreciated, and I am certain that the message of St. Francis of Assisi brightened the day of each family who attended Mass on Sunday.

Thank you - and well done!

James Kendall

Profile on Paul Reardon - Bea Sanford, Secretary

20th century theologian Hans Urs Von Balthasar described a saint as someone who disappears into the mission of the Church. As I reviewed the list of JPIC Award winners I was impressed by the notoriety of the recipients and their extraordinary accomplishments. However, I will admit that I tend to identify with the individuals who are heroic in their ordinary lives.

One such person is Paul Reardon. Paul's profession took place on June 23, 2019; however, he has always been a Franciscan at heart. Beginning with his service to St. Mary of the Annunciation Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts as an altar boy and choir member at the age of six, Paul lived a life of exemplifying gospel values. During his high school years, Paul entered the Divine Word Seminary spending the next six years discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Thinking he was missing out on life Paul joined the Navy in 1954 to see the world. His deployment in 1958 brought him to Maryview Catholic Hospital in Portsmouth, VA as an operating room tech. It was this fateful day that Paul met his wife Pat, a scrub nurse. Despite the masks required in the operating room, it was love at first sight; their marriage lasted 56 years until Pat's passing in 2016. Paul and Patsy adopted Michael in 1962 while Paul was studying Law Enforcement at Michigan State University. He applied for and was accepted by the Virginia State Police bringing his family to Patsy's home state. In 1968 Paul and Patsy adopted their second son Patrick. Like many dedicated professionals, Paul continued to work on his degree as his schedule would permit earning a bachelor's of science degree in criminology from Christopher Newport University.

Paul's work for the Virginia State Police promoted peace, social justice and care for creation. Paul was responsible for inculcating children with the principals of the D.A.R.E. program. D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives. Eventually Paul transitioned to educating the police officers in the methodology behind D.A.R.E. instructing police officers from Nova Scotia to Maine to Virginia to the Pacific, including the Native American Police Officers in Arizona. Paul's career progressed as an undercover drug agent where he effectively infiltrated gangs motivated to chain generations to drug addiction. Always mindful of treating people with dignity, Paul received numerous commendations during his career and there were no complaints registered during his 31 years serving the Commonwealth of Virginia as a State Trooper.

Since his retirement in 1995 Paul continues to serve his church as the leader of the Greeter Ministry at Church of Francis DeSales in Mathews, VA. He also volunteers with Hands Across Mathews whose mission is to help local families who have suffered some crisis that puts them in need of the basic amenities of food, clothing, shelter, prescription medications or fuel. Paul has lived his life in service to others without calling attention to his service. He truly has disappeared into the mission of the Church.



From Left to Right, Rick Churray, Terry Carlino, Paul Reardon, Bea Sanford, Carol Murphy

Social Justice in Action - Bea Sanford, Secretary

Peg Crews and Bea Sanford joined hundreds of people on Sunday, June 7 to participate in a rally to highlight the Historic Triangle Covenant of Mutuality, Inclusion and Understanding Between Law Enforcement Officials and the African American Community that was created on May 19, 2017. The peaceful and collaborative community rally in front of the Capitol in Colonial Williamsburg was led by pastors Corwin R. Hammond (CBC World Ministries) and Fred Liggin (Williamsburg Christian Church). Numerous faith and civic leaders, including local police chiefs, spoke about the opportunities for the community to come together in the wake of the death of George Floyd. Several speakers shared their stories of instances of racism in an effort to increase awareness of the deeply imbedded narrative that has been below the surface since the first slaves arrived in Jamestown in 1619.

Pastor Liggin and Pastor Corwin wrote about the purpose of Sunday's gathering: "This is a rally, not a protest. Protest is denunciation of what we're against. Rally is pronouncement of what we're for. We're rallying around a renewed commitment to the Historic Triangle Covenant of Mutuality, Inclusion and Understanding with the African American Community. And we're committing to continued steps toward systemic change--which does not happen overnight and takes inclusion, hospitality, humility, truth-telling, compassion, and forgiveness. It is hard and messy and filled with difficulties of all sorts. But it is also beautiful and good and worth it if we want to see a beloved community form all around us . . . Let's be truth-tellers and peacemakers, always remembering that returning hate for hate multiplies hate, but love for hate can change society one person and institution at a time."

As Franciscans we are called to be peacemakers by the example of our lives. May we all be the change we want to see.

