



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

April 2017  
[www.olrsfo.weebly.com](http://www.olrsfo.weebly.com)

(The Great Mosaic which covers the entire surface of the sanctuary in the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi in New York City depicts the theme of Mary, Queen of the Order of Friars Minor, receiving the love and honor bestowed on her by Franciscans throughout the centuries.)

**Minister's Reflections**  
By Terry Carlino, OFS

Like an amazing amount of traditional church practice the Stations of the Cross are a practice that originated with St. Francis and was carried throughout the Church by Franciscans.

St. Francis was the founder of the Custodia Terrae Sanctae which, under the direction of the Holy See, is still today responsible for the preservation of the holy places in the Holy Land.

Initially Franciscans built outdoor copies of the Via Dolorosa. Eventually the Pope granted members of the Franciscan orders the right to erect stations within their churches. Not until the middle of the nineteenth century was the right extended to bishops throughout the church.

We only have a few more weeks to attend formal stations, which are only normally held in parishes in the United States during Lent, though individuals can do the Stations at any time throughout the year privately. So if you haven't yet attended this year, please try to make time for this Franciscan tradition.

## **Vice Minister's Corner**

### Broadening Horizons and Encountering Christ by Bea Sanford, OFS

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land goes to “the geographical point of union between God and men, between eternity and history” in the words of Saint Pope John Paul II. I was extremely fortunate to travel on a 15-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March with fellow Franciscan, Eileen Murray. The Franciscans have been charged with the custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, so I felt a sense of solidarity as a pilgrim and a Franciscan. It was enlightening to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and as a result of my pilgrimage, the Gospels have come to life for me.

There were 27 fellow pilgrims who journeyed with us to the Holy Land for various reasons. We had the opportunity to celebrate Mass at the Basilica of Transfiguration located on Mount Tabor, the Mount of Beatitudes on the Sea of Galilee, in the outdoor garden at the Church of Saint Peter's Primacy, and the Franciscan chapel in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Many of you may recall that Retired General Anthony Zinni told us about the ritual surrounding the closing each night of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The safekeeping of the key still rests with a Muslim whose family for generations has accepted this responsibility of opening and closing the doors for visiting pilgrims. It was truly fascinating for me to witness this time-bound tradition that began in the mid 1200's. Visiting the Church of the Nativity to touch the place where Christ laid His head as the Holy Family sought refuge in Bethlehem was a humbling experience. Witnessing devout Christians being baptized in the Jordan River where Saint John the Baptist announced the arrival of Christ was inspiring.

Spending quiet time in the Garden of Gethsemane brought a range of emotions to surface. Walking the Via Dolorosa amid the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem called to mind that when Christ was carrying His cross, He was subject to jeering from the crowds of detractors. His love for us is unconditional and knows no bounds. Visiting another country reminded me of how blessed we are to live in a country with abundant resources. It brought to mind the responsibility I have to see Christ in others and to bring the Gospel to others through my words and actions.

I find the monthly gatherings of our fraternity offers the support I need to respond to the Rule of Saint Francis. I thank you, my sisters and brothers in Francis and Clare for your love and support.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

### **April 22**

The joyful Profession at St. Bede Church at the 5:30 pm Mass of:

Karen Caulson  
Peg Crews  
Donna Kendall  
Eileen Murray  
Maria Fuentes-Sherman

A potluck reception, in the Walsh Room (where we usually meet), will follow the service. Spouses, family and friends are, of course, invited.

Please let Terry/Bea know, if you have not already, what you plan to bring to the potluck.

### **April 28-30**

Secular Franciscan Annual Retreat at Priest Field Pastoral Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430.

Registration form needs to be submitted no later than April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the success and spiritual enrichment of all attendees in your prayers.

### **May 21**

Fraternity Monthly Meeting. There will be no meeting in April, since the third Sunday falls on Easter Sunday and we will be celebrating our candidates' profession on April 22.

## **Thank You**

To Bea Sanford for arranging the fraternity's Lenten retreat/luncheon on April 8<sup>th</sup>, and to Father James Kauffman for his spiritually uplifting presentation of *The Wonder of Truth, Holyland 2016*. You may view/continue this presentation on his Blog above.

## **The Holy Father's April Intention**

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

### **Happy Birthday**



April 17: Leo Wells

### **Franciscan Humor**



“We feel that with a little effort you can be ‘holier-than-thou.’”

[www.brotherjuniper.com](http://www.brotherjuniper.com)

**HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER SEASON TO ALL!**