

# Order of St. Francis Secular Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity Newsletter

November 2016

Serving Hampton Roads Virginia  
[www.olrsfo.weebly.com](http://www.olrsfo.weebly.com)

## Fraternity Council Members

Minister

Terry Carlino, OFS

Vice Minister

Bea Sanford, OFS

Secretary

Ken Holt, OFS

Treasurer

Barbara Massey, OFS

Formation Director

Ed Gerhard, OFS

Spiritual Director

Sister Agnes Narocho, LSOFS

## Minister's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

November is a very auspicious month for the members of our order. For one thing on November 17 we celebrate the feast of the patron of our order St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Though a member of royalty Elizabeth was a Franciscan and lived the Franciscan way. The patron of both us Seculars and the religious of the Third Order, after the death of her husband at the tender age of 20 she put away her royal lifestyle and used her dowry to build a hospital where she served the sick and dying. Remember that Elizabeth's feast is a solemnity for our order and we start her celebration on the vigil with evening prayers.

On the November 24th we follow the cycle of the wider liturgical year and pray for all the deceased of the Seraphic Order, honoring our deceased brothers and sisters who have gone to their reward in Christ.

On November 29 we honor all of the Saints of the Seraphic Order, especially those who have no feast day of their own. In this we reverse the order of the greater Church who honor first all Saints on November 1st, a holy day of obligation, followed by All Souls Day on November 2nd.

It is fitting that we think of the dead in this month that wraps up the liturgical year, when the readings turn to contemplation of the Last Things, death, judgment, Heaven and Hell. The Saints have faced judgment and achieved the glory of Heaven. We hope all souls, and especially those souls of the members of our own Seraphic Orders, will be found worthy at the Last Judgment and join them in Heaven.

So remember to pray for the dead in the coming month, especially those of our order who have already passed. Pax et bonum

Terry Carlino OFS

# Nov. 20th OFS Meeting

Location: St. Bede Church

We will be meeting in the Father Walsh Room

Entrance same side as large parking lot

3686 Iron Bound rd. Williamsburg

map at [bedeva.org](http://bedeva.org)

office : 757-229-3631

## Agenda

12:00 Candidates meet

1:00 Members gathers

1:30 Opening prayers

1:45 Formation (subject)

3:00 Break

3:30 Business (old & new)

4:00 Liturgy of the hours (evening prayer)

4:15 fellowship



## Formation preparation

Books to bring: Hours and Ritual

### THE TRINITY

For God to be truth

God had to be one.

For God to be love

God had to be two.

For God to be Joy

God had to be three.

by Richard of St. Victor 1173

# God Encounters

## The Red Coat

As told by Brendon Busse, SJ

After mass in the cool of the evening air of the parish plaza

I watched a father dressing a child.

She was maybe three or four years old and hesitant.

"I don't want to wear the coat, Papa."

But he was insistant, gentle, but insistant.

"Ay Mija, but it is cold tonight and you'll need it."

Her hesitance softened and she seemed to enjoy his embrace as he knelt behind her, wrapped his arms around her and buttoned the coat,

thouroughly, carefully, one toggle at a time.

As he stood up again she leaned back against his legs and looking up from her freshly toggled coat she caught me watching.

I smiled. She threw her arms wide open and beamed a joyful grin of pride, as if to say, "look at my coat, Isn't it lovely."

Her joy had nothing to do with me, but it did have something to do with recognition.

She was overjoyed because an invisible thing, the love and care of her father had been made visabe in her well buttoned coat.

Hers was a joy of love.

Mine was the joy of witnessing.



# Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity Elects New Council



Terry Carlino    Bea Sanford    Ken Holt    Barbara Massey    Ed Gerhard

## A Big Thank You to the Retiring Council



Photos by Carol Murphy of



Leo Wells    Chris Wells    Glen Davis    Deanne Marshall    Ed Gerhard

# Poets & Mystics Corner

St. Francis and the Sow  
by Galway Kinnell

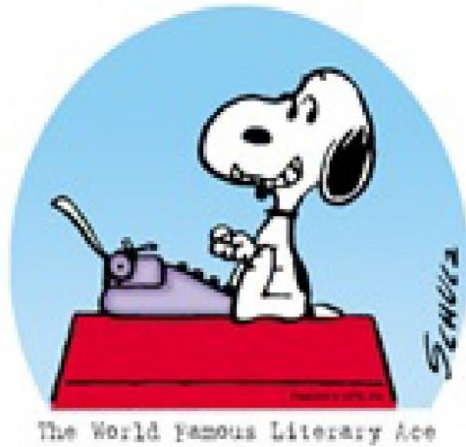
St. Francis  
Put his hand on the  
creased forehead  
of the sow, and told her in words  
and in touch  
blessings of the earth on the sow  
and the sow  
began remembering  
the long perfect loviness of sow

COMFORT  
by Joan Chittister, "Songs of the Heart"  
reflections on the Psalms

Even though I walk in the valley of darkness.  
I fear no evel.  
Your rod and your staff COMFORT me .

The disciple asked the holy one .  
"Will you cure the people who come to you?"  
"Oh, people don't come to be cured,"  
the holy one answered.  
"They come for relief and COMFORT.  
A cure would require change----  
And that's the last thing in the world they want to do."

COMFORT is a tender thing.  
It requires your regular presence, patient listening  
and genuine concern.  
Maybe that is why there is so little of it in the world.  
It demands that we go out of ourselves,  
to an other in ways that give us no advantage.  
In fact COMFORT is a very expensive thing.



The Pork Chop Dilemma  
by Thomas Merton

One time when I was nine years old, I was spending the weekend with my buddy David. We came to the supper table with ravenous appetites. And Miss Ad (as I called her) was serving up some fantastic breaded pork chops. She placed two beauties on my plate, added some scalloped potatoes, when she stopped suddenly and said, "Oh Jimmy, I forgot. Your Catholic. You can't eat meat on Fridays." Then I remembered too.

Now the readers who have been around a while know what abstinence meant for Catholics in the 1940's. Meat on Fridays was strictly forbidden, a prohibition was considered very serious by every Catholic. There was no way I was going to touch those pork chops, no matter how good they smelled! But Miss Ad suggested that she call mom. She came back from the next room and said, "Jimmy your mom wants to talk to you." I went to the phone and said, "Hi Mom." My mom, the theologian, responded with just two words very emphatically. "You're dispensed!" Holy smokes, I thought. I dispensed! You can't be more dispensed than when your mother dispenses, because next to God she has more power than the Pope. Who needs a priest when your mom issues a dispensation? I have no doubt that God in heaven ratified her dispensation and warned that no one should counterdict her. Those pork chops? Indeed they were delicious.

Editors note:

Mystic: contemplative or experiential knowledge of God. The link between mysticism and the vision of the Divine was introduced by the early Church Fathers, who used the term as an adjective, as in mystical theology and mystical contemplation.

Send newsletter submissions to [dennisthiel@cox.net](mailto:dennisthiel@cox.net)