



Our Lady of the Rosary  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity  
Williamsburg, Virginia



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

## Message from our Minister ...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

September was a month of transitions and celebrations. In September the fraternity was blessed to have our monthly meeting fall on the Feast of the Stigmata. St. Francis. The Stigmata ceremony was even more special because all who were present were able to participate by reading an excerpt from Francis's life and we included some beautiful music to enhance the readings.

In our September meeting we were able to welcome our fellow Franciscan, Annie Pepper, back to the Williamsburg area. So blessed to have you back in the fold.

We also were also able to welcome Theresia Nidunge Muli as a new inquirer. She's been attending meeting for several months and will be starting her formal formation with us. Welcome Theresia!

Many of us were able to say goodbye to Sandra Link when we attended her funeral Mass at St. Olaf. It was a beautiful sending. In his eulogy, Steve spoke of the importance of the Franciscans and Our Lady of the Rosary fraternity in Sandra's life. She will be greatly missed. Our next Franciscan celebration will be the Transitus of St. Francis on October 3rd. Many of us are hoping to attend the Transitus at Bethlehem Monastery of the Poor Clares. As of now (September 27th), I haven't heard from the sisters on the timing of the ceremony. I will let you know as soon as I hear so we can carpool to the monastery.

Once again, I'm asking for feedback on the newsletter. It doesn't have to be elaborate. Just let us know what works for you, what doesn't work and where we might be able to improve.

Have a blessed Transitus,

Peg





**From your Formation Director: Donna Kendall**

As a child growing up, I spent many summers in Italy with my grandmother, aunts, uncles, and cousins. The memories from those days long ago have sustained my life with a sense of joy and beauty. Sometimes my mother and her sisters would wake up before dawn to start cooking. They would prepare large roasting pans filled with pasta and vegetables or roasted vegetables with fresh chicken from the coop outside my grandmother's kitchen. They would bake breads

and focaccias and desserts whose memory still make my mouth water. The entire family would gather, either at my grandmother's house, or we would take the food out to the countryside, or head over to the beach along the Adriatic coast to have a picnic. Somehow, we would pile into small Fiats without seatbelts and in sardine-like fashion we would rumble down cobbled streets to our destination. One such excursion I remember vividly. It was late summer during the fig harvest, and it was decided that we would have our picnic at the family olive groves outside of town. My grandfather had cultivated many types of trees and plants so that each month a new product could be harvested. The olive harvest would not take place until October, but the trees were full of the blossoming fruit. I sat under the shade of the olive trees and happened to mention to my cousins that I love olives. The boys asked me if I had ever tasted a fresh olive right off the tree? When I said no, they looked at each other and said they would help me climb up the branches to pick a few fresh olives so I could taste them. In that microsecond between putting the olive in my mouth and realizing that I had been duped, I heard the laughter below me. The boys were holding their stomachs and rolling on the ground with crude amusement when they'd seen the ghastly look on my face at the taste of the "fresh olive." I had never in my life tasted anything so bitter and so acrid. In my memory I can still taste the bitterness, but I can also recall that nothing else I ate tasted right for the rest of the day. I felt angry and incensed that they would take advantage of my ignorance. I felt betrayed and I never trusted my male cousins after that day, but I learned a valuable lesson: olives must be cured to be enjoyed. Like so many things in life, time and evolution can change what in the moment can seem bitter and unpalatable.

We read that towards the end of Francis' life he was in pain, suffering from illness, and feeling saddened at the direction his Vision was taking. In Francis' view littleness, simplicity, and childlike commitment to the folly of the cross was the objective. When some of the more "learned" brothers treated their less knowledgeable brothers with mockery and name-calling, Francis was deeply saddened and mourned the actions that might lead to an abandonment of affection to Lady Poverty. It is said that some of the Brothers began to reject the Vision altogether, finding it to be idealistic and certainly radical. Although Francis felt deeply hurt and let down by these Brothers, he knew in his heart that his Dream and Vision for the brotherhood would live on. "One day as Francis' spirit groaned in prayer, Jesus sent another dream to complete the Vision. He saw a vast plain that was suddenly suffused with light. Christ Our Lord sat on a throne judging the world. And in the lowliest part of the plain, in a rocky corner beneath a ragged cedar tree, sat Lady Poverty and her devoted knights. And Francis' heart leapt with joy when he saw the Brothers' brown tunics there in her company. They were not in the majority, but they were there, closest to his lady. And Francis was at peace. The Vision had been secured by the dream." (Murray Bodo, *Francis: The Journey and the Dream*)

Everything changes with time. Let us pray to be among the ones that Francis saw in the future sitting in the company of Lady Poverty. Let us pray that the bitterness and sadness we may experience in life does not take a permanent hold on our spirits. Bitterness and joy can walk side by side. Let us hold on to the peace and joy that accompanies the unfortunate moments in life. Pax e bonum.

From the Director of Formation: Donna Kendall



**Stranded on a deserted island:** A Dominican, a Jesuit, and a Franciscan were stranded on a deserted island for many years. One day, they found a lamp buried in the sand, and out popped a Genie. The genie said to them, “Thank you so much for setting me free from my lamp! I will grant each of you one wish to show my gratitude!”

The Jesuit spoke first: “I long to be back at the university where I study and teach once more. Please, send me back, away from here!” Poof, he was gone. The Dominican spoke next: “I long to be back with the people, preaching the word of God in the streets and in the church. Please, send me back, away from here!” Poof, he was gone. After thinking long and hard, the Franciscan spoke last: “I kind of miss those guys. Can you bring them back?”



We are currently in the middle of the National Eucharistic Revival. During formation, the fraternity signaled its desire to make adoration an important part of our faith lives. Let us follow in the footsteps of St. Francis who loved the Eucharist and wrote the following in his Letter to the Entire Order:

Let everyone be struck with fear,  
let the whole world tremble,  
and let the heavens exult  
when Christ, the Son of the living God,  
is present on the altar in the hands of a priest!  
O wonderful loftiness and stupendous dignity!

O sublime humility!

O humble sublimity!

The Lord of the universe,

God and the Son of God,

so humbles Himself

that for our salvation

He hides Himself

under an ordinary piece of bread!

Brothers, look at the humility of God,

and pour out your hearts before Him!

Humble yourselves

That you may be exalted by Him!

Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves,

That He Who gives Himself totally to you,

May receive you totally!



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**



Theresia Nidunge Muli is new to our fraternity. She has been a guest for the past few months and is now in the Inquiry phase of joining the Our Lady of the Rosary Franciscans. Welcome Theresia!



Annie Pepper has returned to Virginia and is back with Our Lady of the Rosary Secular Franciscans.

Welcome back, Annie.

## The Pope's Monthly Intentions



**October – For the Synod**



We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

### Upcoming Important Dates

#### **Anniversary of Profession:**

Glenn Davis—October 15, 2005

Deanne Marshall—October 13, 2003

Marie Stephan—October 4, 1999



#### **Birthdays**

**Susan James – October 2**

**Barbara Massey—October 12**

**Ann Pepper—October 18**

**Next Fraternity Meeting—October 15 at 1:15pm (social gathering from 12:30-1:15)**

**\*\*\* Save the Date \*\*\***

**Saturday December 16, 2023**

**Advent Day of Reflection**

**St. Clare of Assisi Retreat Center, Hampton, VA**

**\*\*\* Save the Date \*\*\***



### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Minister: Peg Crews [peg.crews@gmail.com](mailto:peg.crews@gmail.com)

Vice Minister: Carol Murphy [cjmurphy@usa.com](mailto:cjmurphy@usa.com)

Secretary: Eileen Murray [eamurray3@gmail.com](mailto:eamurray3@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Paul Reardon [reardon948@gmail.com](mailto:reardon948@gmail.com)

Formation Director: Donna Kendall [domenica145@gmail.com](mailto:domenica145@gmail.com)

Councilor-at-Large: Barbara Massey [barbmarlin@verizon.net](mailto:barbmarlin@verizon.net), and Cindy Holland [cynthia.holland@cox.net](mailto:cynthia.holland@cox.net)

**A Gentle Reminder. . . If work, health reasons, or significant family obligations hinder you from attending the gathering, contact our Vice Minister, Carol Murphy at [atcjmurphy@usa.com](mailto:atcjmurphy@usa.com) and let her know.**

The poster features a background of a mountain landscape with a cloudy sky. At the top, the text "YOU'RE INVITED!" is written in a blue, bubbly font. Below this, the main title "Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference" is centered in a green rounded rectangle. The subtitle "Preserving God's Planet Together" is in a similar green rounded rectangle below it. A decorative line of dots with a central cross symbol separates the subtitle from the dates. The dates "IN PERSON: OCTOBER 13-16, 2023 WASHINGTON, DC" and "VIRTUAL OPTION: OCTOBER 14, 2023" are presented in green rounded rectangles. At the bottom, three logos are displayed: "FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK" with a building icon, "FRANCISCAN JUSTICE CIRCLES" with a blue and gold cross icon, and "FRANCISCAN Colleges and Universities" with a stylized 'C' and 'U' icon.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference**

**Preserving God's Planet Together**

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WASHINGTON, DC**

**VIRTUAL OPTION: OCTOBER 14, 2023**

**FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK**      **FRANCISCAN JUSTICE CIRCLES**      **FRANCISCAN Colleges and Universities**

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### **A Little Healthy Humor**

A Jesuit, a Dominican, and a Franciscan were walking along an old road, debating the greatness of their orders. Suddenly, an apparition of the Holy Family appeared in front of them, with Jesus in a manger and Mary and Joseph praying over him. The Franciscan fell on his face, overcome with awe at the sight of God born in such poverty. The Dominican fell to his knees, adoring the beautiful reflection of the Trinity and the Holy Family. The Jesuit walked up to Joseph, put his arm around his shoulder, and said, "So, have you thought about where to send him to school?"

