

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL  
FRATERNITY



SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER  
TAMPA, FL.

**NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2016**



## **From the Minister**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Fall! We've had great news this month, with professions made by Marie Koehler OFS, Maria Victor OFS, and Ralph Castellano OFS on October 1, 2016. Fr. Jim presided at the beautiful ceremony, and Michelle Taylor assisted as our Formation Director. Congratulations, and may Jesus, Mary, and St. Francis guide you as newly ordained Secular Franciscans. We thank God for His abundant blessings.

Our Thanksgiving celebration will take place on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Our Christmas prayer service with celebration afterwards will be held on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, with a potluck dinner. More to come regarding sign up for readers, music, food and beverage. We will also be volunteering at the Trinity Café this holiday season; if interested, please email or text me and I will sign you up. I will be attending on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Elections for St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity will be held on Jan 18, 2017. Please send nominations through email, phone or mail to Michelle Taylor, Marie Waddell, or me. We have received several nominations thus far. Please pray about this and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your decision. There will be formal letters sent to your homes regarding the elections soon. This is a **Mandatory Fraternity Meeting**, with Jim Grant OFS, our Northwest Regional Counselor presiding.

In this holiday season, let's remember our departed brothers and sisters: Fr. Angelus Migliore, beloved former Spiritual Assistant who met the Lord on March 28<sup>th</sup>; Maryann Fitzpatrick OFS; and Robin Reich OFS. Let's also pray for our brothers and sisters who cannot come to our meetings due to illness or distance.

God Bless Always,

Love always,

Theresa

# Celebrations!

## Anniversaries

Marie-Therese' Waddell (October 28, 1982)  
Michelle Thresher Taylor (November 13, 2010)  
Bill Morgan (December 1, 2012)

Irene Garcia (November 13, 2010)  
Diana McKinney (December 1, 2012)  
Theresa Zesiewicz (December 1, 2012)

## Ralph Castellano, OFS

## Maria Victor, OFS

## Marie Koehler, OFS

On October 1, 2016, the Feast Day of St. Therese' of Lisieux, the St. Michael's fraternity conducted the Rite of Permanent Profession with Fr. Jim Angert, for three of it's brothers and sisters, during the Saturday morning Mass at St. Patrick Church in Tampa.



"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."

-- St. Therese' of Lisieux



## Transitus

On Monday, October 3, 2016, the St. Michael Fraternity celebrated the rite of the Transitus at St. Patrick Church. Fr. Stan Holland, TOR, presided.

The Transitus is an annual celebration on the vigil of the feastday of St. Francis for Franciscans all over the world, remembering the passing of their father from earthly life to eternal life with God.



“St. Francis spent the last few days before his death in praising the Lord and teaching his companions whom he loved so much to praise Christ with him. Even death itself, considered by all to be so terrible and hateful, was exhorted to give praise, while he himself, going joyfully to meet it, invited it to make its abode with him. ‘Welcome, he said, ‘my sister death!’”

-- from Celano, Second Life

## Day of Recollection

On Saturday, August 13, 2016, the St. Michael Fraternity gathered for a very special day, a Day of Recollection. The function began with the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church, followed with a program by Fr. Jim Angert in Room 24 of the St. Patrick campus. Coffee, juice and breakfast refreshments were served.



“As Franciscans, it is important that we hear from the Lord. We can hear from the Lord in our prayer time or at Mass. These are two key times in the life of St. Francis. How do you hear from the Lord? There is a difference between the mind determining reality and the mind receiving reality.”

“We are in the midst of a tremendous cultural crisis today. St. Francis lived in the midst of a cultural crisis and a sign of that was the destruction of Rocco Marjorie. How do we respond?”

“St. Francis was a man of prayer and as a result, the Lord would touch others through him. Examples would be how he influenced St. Clare through his preaching; or My God and My All; or the Canticle of Brother Sun. Francis let the Spirit of the Lord work through him to touch individual people. Be transformed through the power of God, then preach to people. You can’t reach them, but God can!”



## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

### **Interfaith Leaders Call on President and Congress to Reject Biased Religious Liberty Report**

October 12, 2016

WASHINGTON—Archbishop William E. Lori, Chairman of the USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, and Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, joined leaders from diverse faiths in writing to President Barack Obama, Senate President Pro Tempore Orrin Hatch, and House Speaker Paul Ryan concerning a report released last month by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The letter calls upon these political leaders "to renounce publicly the [report's] claim that 'religious freedom' and 'religious liberty' are 'code words' or a 'pretext' for various forms of discrimination."

The interfaith leaders' letter states, in part: "We wish to express our deep concern that the Commission has issued a report, *Peaceful Coexistence: Reconciling Non-Discrimination Principles with Civil Liberties*, that stigmatizes tens of millions of religious Americans, their communities, and their faith-based institutions, and threatens the religious freedom of all our citizens."

The letter continues: "We understand that people of good faith can disagree about the relationship between religious liberty and antidiscrimination laws in our country, and how that relationship should be structured. ... At the same time, we are one in demanding that no American citizen or institution be labeled by their government as bigoted because of their religious views, and dismissed from the political life of our nation for holding those views. And yet that is precisely what the Civil Rights Commission report does."

The signatories went on to state that "[e]ach of us opposes hateful rhetoric and actions. We believe in the equality of all Americans before the law, regardless of creed or community. But we are both determined and unafraid to speak the truth about beliefs we have held for millennia. Slandering ideas and arguments with which one disagrees as 'racism' or 'phobia'...only cheapens the meaning of those words."

### **A Statement from Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Committee on Pro-Life Activities**

September 14, 2016

An abortion advocacy organization "Catholics for Choice" (CFC) placed deceptive full-page newspaper ads in multiple cities on September 12 calling for taxpayer funding of abortion in the name of the Catholic faith. As the U.S. Catholic bishops have **stated for many years**, the use of the name 'Catholic' as a platform to promote the taking of innocent human life is offensive not only to Catholics, but to all who expect honesty and forthrightness in public discourse.

CFC is not affiliated with the Catholic Church. It has no membership, and does not speak for the faithful. It is funded by powerful private foundations to promote abortion as a method of population control. The organization rejects and distorts Catholic social teaching -- and actually attacks its foundation. As Pope Francis said this summer **to leaders in Poland**, . . . "Life must always be welcomed and protected...from conception to natural death. All of us are called to respect life and care for it."

# Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

## Fear Not in Franciscan Love and Joy

*(condensed from an article in the TAU-USA Fall edition)*

Overcoming fear and recognizing the love of God within us. Those two things can fuel something greater in the Franciscan vocation, suggests National JPIC Chair Carolyn Townes, OFS, a featured speaker on the final day of the Quintennial Congress on Sunday, July 3.

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission chair pointed to fear as being real, “but our God is bigger.” “God has given us the power – not ego, not pride, not false self – but the power of the Spirit of the One who is in you.” She added: “God has not given you a spirit of mediocrity. Why do we play small when God is so big?”

Carolyn suggested using one attribute about yourself that you love. “Go do and be that with everyone you come in contact with. Do it with Franciscan joy! Times can get hard, and if you’re going through hell, keep going and you’ll come out on fire!”

She shouted: “Franciscan joy! How many of you got it? Franciscan peace! How many of you got it?” “Be that. Be that ... you have the power of prayer, you have the power of love.”

## Comforting with Silent Prayer

*(condensed from an article in the FMA Focus June 2016 edition)*

“There are Catholics who steer clear of silent prayer, sometimes called The Prayer of Quiet. Many people can be uncomfortable with quiet. The discomfort is something they would rather not discuss, almost as if quiet is a waste of time. In our fast-paced lives where every minute counts, that may be. In fact, silent prayer is an ancient form of worship of the Living God.”

“Today, we understand that silent prayer is the language of our heavenly homeland. And as in study of any language, we need to practice. With perseverance, we discover what saints and sages long understood: just knowing that when we are in the presence of God, in humility and love - words are only a distraction.”

“Find a little time to practice silent prayer. Should you be near a body of water or the roar of the sea, such quiet will steal you away from distractions. Likewise, time with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on a First Friday will always bring you into the Lord’s Presence. It will be God’s gift to you. A gift and a strong contemplative ‘language’ with which to thank God for all His love and gifts to you – beginning with calling you to life, here and in eternity.”

“Why not begin with a perfect prayer given to us by Jesus, the Lord’s Prayer? It is a perfect prayer: “Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name...” Why not hold Mary’s prayer, the Magnificat, close to your heart? The first two stanzas provide another perfect prayer, recited every day in the Evening Prayer.”

“If you are unfamiliar with silence, keep trying. The beauty will unfold like a breathtaking sunrise!”



THE BABY JESUS STARTS TEETHING.

# Jubilee of Mercy!

## **Jubilee of Mercy: A Final Gift, Prophecies, End Times**

*(condensed from an article by Kathleen Beckman on CatholicExchange.com)*

“St. John Paul II’s 1980 encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia (Rich in Mercy)*, taught, ‘The present day mentality, more perhaps than that of people of the past, seems opposed to a God of mercy, and in fact tends to exclude from life and to remove from the human heart the very idea of mercy.’”

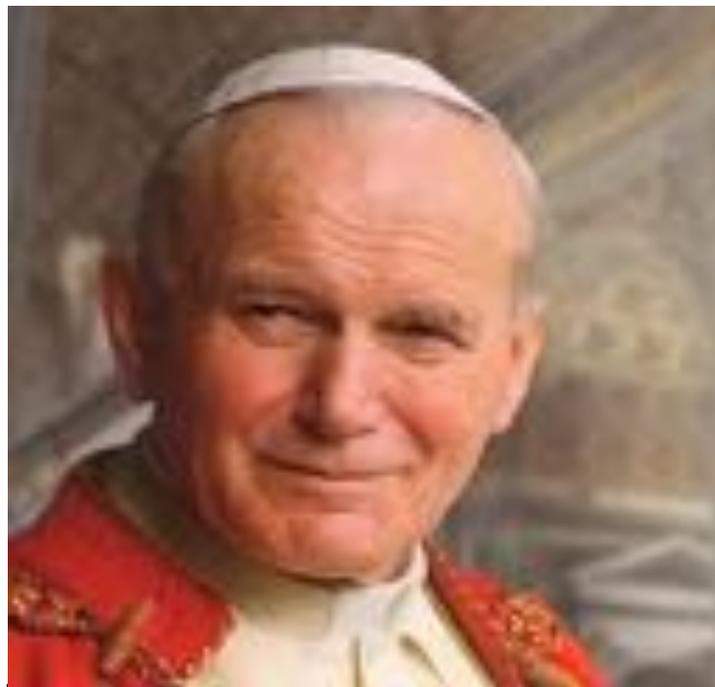
“God’s mercy cannot be presumed, nor does it mean the absence of accountability, justice, or fraternal correction. The scriptures are replete with merciful acts of God *combined* with the exhortation to change; ‘Go, and sin no more’ (Jn 8:11). Jesus forgives but also corrects, exhorts, and warns because His nature is love and His greatest attribute is mercy. Merciful love can do no less.”



“Jesus told St. Faustina, ‘The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. Fortunate is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him.’”

“Our Lord said, ‘Keep watch, therefore, praying at all times, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are to come, and to stand before the Son of man.’”

“The Pope, in this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, extends a great opportunity: a gift of grace, and a prophetic sign consistent with his predecessors, biblical prophecy, the Catechism and the writings of a Saint. What is our response to the Jubilee?”



**POPE ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT**  
-- feastday October 22

Born Karol Jozef Wojtyla in 1920, JPII lead a great reformation of the Church, codifying the principals of Vatican II. He brought great love and zeal to the Catholic faith, especially with young people and families. “As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the whole world in which we live.” Totus Tuus!





# Mary Our Mother

## Immaculate Conception

December 8

*(condensed from an article on CatholicCulture.com)*

“There is a special dearness about Christmas gifts that are made <by children>. The making of gifts should be a special part of Advent; an outpouring of self into something we make for someone we love, entirely in the spirit of the remaking of our hearts for Christ, for receiving the gift Someone who loves us made for us.”

“The making of gifts has a counterpart in the greatest of the Advent feasts, the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, and we learn from this feast with what infinite pains God prepared the gift He gave to us.”

“God always knew Our Lady just as He always knew us. It is easy for a child to learn this and understand it. You simply tell him and he knows. You know in your mind what you are going to do before you do it; so, God knew us all in His mind before He made us. Now, it is not necessary for God to give any reason for this except that it pleased Him. He is God. Surely He may do as He wants. And of course it is easy for us to understand that the Mother of God should be perfect, the most holy and beautiful of all creatures.”

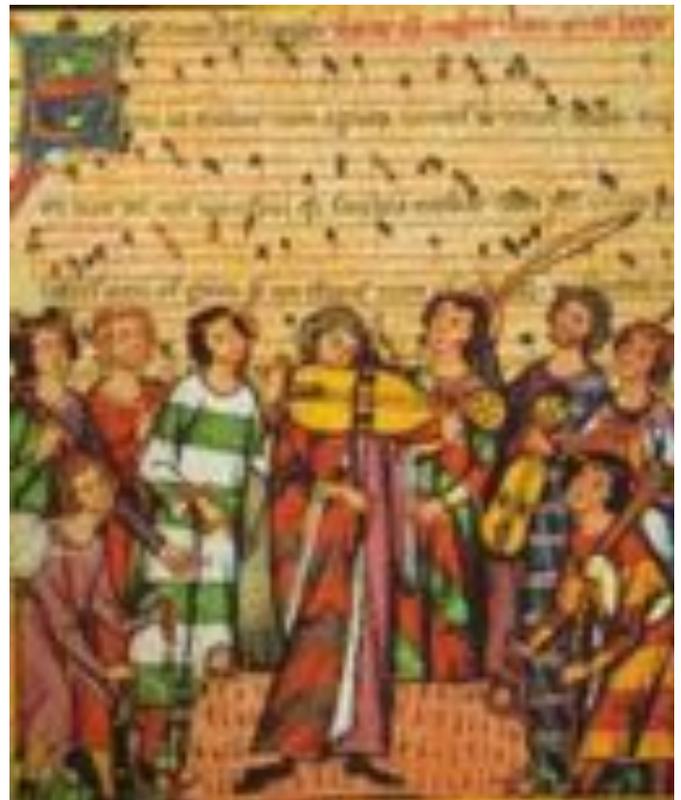
## CHRISTMAS CAROLS!

*(condensed from an article on Angels.About.com)*

“Francis of Assisi began the Christmas tradition of caroling (singing joyful songs to celebrate the holiday) in the 1200s. Before that time, people had listened to priests sing solemn Christmas hymns during formal church services, but Francis wanted people to be able to express their joy by singing Christmas carols -- simple songs they could sing themselves wherever they happened to be, in their own homes or even while walking around outside.”

“The Bible records that on the first Christmas, an angel appeared to announce the birth of Jesus Christ and tell people where to find the infant Jesus. Then, it says in Luke 2:13-14: ‘Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests!’”

“Francis hoped that if people sang joyful praise songs to God at Christmas - - just as the angels in heaven musically praised God on the first Christmas -- then people would focus their attention on what Francis said was the miraculous meaning of the holiday: God visiting Earth in the flesh, to save people from their sins and reconcile them to Him.”



# Reflection

## A Revolution of Tenderness: A 2016 Election Pope Francis Voter Guide

*(condensed from a document available on the Franciscan Action Network)*

“As we live out this Jubilee Year of Mercy and the United States enters into the 2016 election season, Americans face a myriad of choices between competing visions for our nation’s future. As Catholics, we are called by our faith to engage in this election. Pope Francis says that ‘a good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of one’s self so that those who govern can govern well.’ We engage in this political process not because we’re partisan, but because we’re Christian.”

“Of course no candidate, and no party, completely adheres to this vision of the common good. Ours is a pluralistic society in which many do not share our faith or its social vision. It is our hope, however, that the essential truth of the Gospel, the beauty of Pope Francis’s vision, and the social mission of Catholic Church will appeal to the American people.”

*“The great gift of life is the first gift we have received. Sometimes we risk forgetting about this, as if we were the masters of our existence while instead we are radically dependent. In fact, it is a source of great joy to hear that at every age in life, in every situation, in every social condition, we are and remain sons and daughters.”—Pope Francis (General Audience, June 18, 2015)*

“The inviolable dignity of each and every human person, especially those who are vulnerable, is the foundational political concern for Catholics. That dignity becomes meaningless unless human life is valued both in our laws and in our culture. Indeed, as Americans, we believe, as our Declaration of Independence states, that the very purpose of government is to promote ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ Catholics stand four-square in opposition to any and all dishonor to human dignity and to life.”

**This voter guide was put together for your prayerful reflection by a coalition of national Catholic organizations, listed below.**

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Faith in Public Life: Catholic Program  
Franciscan Action Network  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
Pax Christi USA  
Pax Christi International  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas’

### **Prayer Before an Election**

We pray for discernment,  
so that we may choose leaders  
who hear Your Word, live Your love,  
and keep in the ways of Your truth.

We ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

-- USCCB

