

The Newsletter of

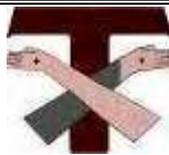
644 South 9th Street
Lake Wales, FL 33853

EL ENCUESTRO/THE ENCOUNTER



January 2018

The Holy Name
of Jesus



The Holy Name
of Jesus

El Encuentro/The Encounter Council Members

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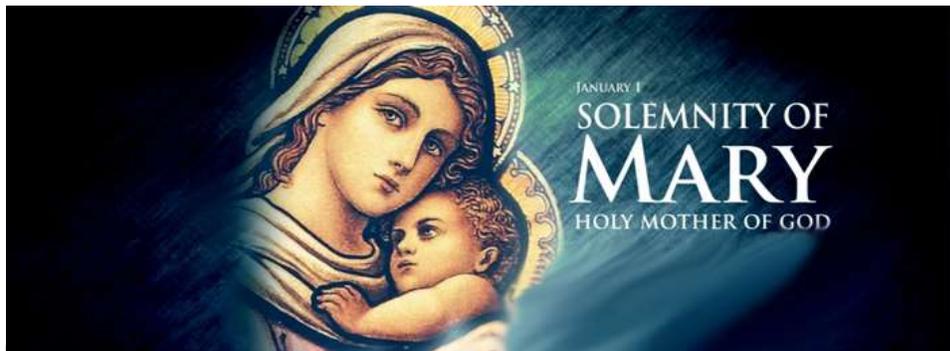
Joan Holdman, OFS

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Emily McDonald, OFS

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One Minute Reflection – 1 January 2018 – The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Octave Day of the Nativity of Our Lord and the first day of the Month of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart... Luke 2:19

REFLECTIONS – “Today’s liturgy celebrates the solemnity of the Mother of God.

Mary is the one who was chosen to be Mother of the Redeemer, sharing intimately in his mission.

In the light of Christmas, the mystery of her divine motherhood is illumined.

Mary, Mother of Jesus who was born in the Bethlehem cave, is also the Mother of every man and woman who comes into the world. How is it possible not to commend to her the year that is beginning, to implore a time of serenity and peace for all humanity?

On the day when this new year begins under the blessed gaze of the Mother of God, let us invoke the gift of peace for each one and all.”...St Pope John Paul – 1997



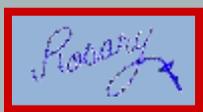
Council Meeting: Fri., January 12, 2018

6:30pm — Holy Spirit Catholic Church school building.

Fraternity Meeting: Sat., January 13, 2018

9:30am — Fraternity Meeting and Formation

Remember: Your Fair Share \$55.00



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Deacon John
Rosemary Shaffner
Karen Rooney's Husband
Sr. Madeleine Harper



BIRTHDAY

Emily McDonald 01/8

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY

Sharon Anderson 01/02/16

FRANCISCAN SAINTS FOR JANUARY

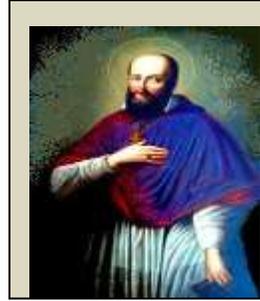


January – Month of the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Childhood

1. Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord
2. Feast of the **Holy Name of Jesus**
6. Feast of the Epiphany
7. St. Charles de Sezza, lay brother, d. 1670
8. Bl. Roger de Toddi, priest, d. 1237
9. Bl. Gilles de Lorenzanad. 1518
10. Bl. Gregory X, Poped. 1276
11. St. Thomas de Cori, priest, d. 1729
12. St. Bernard of Corleone, lay brother, d. 1667
13. Feast of the **Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
14. Bl. Oderic de Pordenone, priest, d. 1331
15. Bl. Jacques del Piebe, priest, martyr d. 1304
16. Sts. Berard and Companions, d. 1220
17. Sl. Matthieu d'Argrigente, Bishop, d. 1451
18. Bl. Jeanne of Saint Mary, d. 1360
19. Bl. Marcel Spinola y Maestre, Bishop, d. 1906
20. Bl. Jean-Baptiste Triquerie, martyr d. 1794
21. Bl. Joseph Nascimbeni, priest, d. 1922
22. St. Vincent Pallotti, priest, d. 1850
23. Feast of the **Marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
28. Bl. Bienvenu de Recanati, priest, d. 1289
29. St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Dr of the Church, d. 1622
31. St. John Bosco, priest, d. 1888

Saint Francis de Sales

Feast Day: January 29th



The city of Geneva in Switzerland is situated at the western end of the forty-five mile long lake of the same name, near the French boundary. In the sixteenth century the Dukedom of Savoy lost this city, as well as the province of Vaud on the north side of the lake and that of Chablais on the south side, to the Calvinists of Switzerland. By giving up his claim to Vaud, the duke of Savoy finally regained Chablais; but the people of the latter province had meanwhile become fanatical Calvinists. The bishop of Geneva resided at Annecy, some twenty miles south of Geneva.

A prominent noble family of Savoy at this time was that of De Sales; and Saint Francis de Sales, who was born in 1567 at the Chateau de Sales, near Annecy, became its most illustrious member. His father had the title to the Signory of Nouvelles by inheritance and that of Boisy by marriage. At baptism, St Francis de Sales received St Francis of Assisi together with St Bonaventure as his patron saints; and after he was appointed coadjutor bishop of Geneva, he had himself enrolled in the Archconfraternity of the Cord of St Francis.

Saint Francis de Sales was not a Franciscan Tertiary, but a member of the Third Order of the Minims, founded by St Francis de Paul. However, he accepted affiliation to the First Order of St Francis from the Capuchins in 1617; and his spirit undoubtedly has a close kinship with that of the Seraphic Saint. He once told the Capuchins that he belonged to the Franciscan Order by special ties; and in 1609, the holy bishop, girded with the cord, preached a beautiful sermon and took part in the traditional procession of the archconfraternity.

The Portiuncula Chapel at Assisi was especially dear to Saint Francis de Sales because of the great spiritual favors he received here. At Evian, on the south shore of Lake Geneva, St Francis of Assisi appeared to him and said:

"You desire martyrdom, just as I once longed for it. But, like me, you will not obtain it. You will have to become an instrument of your own martyrdom."

From early youth, Saint Francis de Sales had a great desire to devote himself entirely to the service of God, although his father had other plans for him. With the pious Abbe Deage as his tutor, Francis was a student at the University of Paris from his fourteenth to his twentieth year; and after studying jurisprudence at the University of Padua for four more years, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Law. In 1593 he finally obtained the consent of his father to enter the sacred ministry; and since he had devoted much time to the study of theology during his student years, he was ordained a priest six months later.

Not long afterwards Saint Francis de Sales volunteered for the difficult and dangerous task of leading the people of the province of Chablais back to the fold of the Church. Several times he miraculously escaped death at the hands of assassins. But he persevered in his heroic and patient efforts, and after four years succeeded in converting a large number of Calvinists. In 1599 he was appointed coadjutor to his bishop; and in 1602 he became bishop of Geneva, a position which he filled in an exemplary manner for twenty years.

Saint Francis de Sales has rightly been styled "the Gentleman Saint" because of his wonderful patience and gentleness. He always tempered his unflagging zeal by imperturbable meekness and kindness. He is a model for every priest and bishop. Though a learned man, he insisted on simple catechizing and preaching and himself set the example. The people came in crowds to hear him preach, not only in Savoy, but also in various cities of France. He began his writing career as a missionary to the Calvinists, by preparing leaflets explaining the principle doctrines of the Church as opposed to the errors of Calvinism. His best known works are: *Philothea*, or Introduction to a Devout Life and *Theotimus*, a treatise on the love of God.

At Dijon, in 1604, Saint Francis de Sales became acquainted with St Jane de Chantal, for whom and through whom he founded the nursing and teaching order known as Visitation Nuns. He died at Lyons on December 28, 1622.

The body of the holy bishop was exhumed ten years after his death and was found perfectly preserved. When the body was once again exhumed at a later date, only bones and dust remained.

St Francis de Sales was beatified in 1661, and canonized in 1665. He was declared a doctor of the Church in 1877; and he has been chosen also as the special patron of Catholic journalists and the Catholic press.

*from: *The Franciscan Book of Saints*, ed. by Marion Habig, ofm

**Praised be You, my Lord,
through Sister Earth our Mother
who sustains and governs us**

- St. Francis of Assisi

Recognising God's Goodness in the Material World



St. Francis loved all of God's creation; animals and plants, humanity, rocks, wind and the entire universe. Creation is a biblical and religious term and presupposes a Creator who creates creation. In Christian belief which is the faith of Francis, the Creator is a loving God who so loves His creation that He sends His Son, Jesus Christ who lives-with-us as one of us on earth. Creation includes nature and every other created reality.



Through a life of prayer and relationship, Francis eventually came to see God's goodness at the heart of all matter. For him, all of creation is filled with the abundant goodness of God, manifests the presence of God, and deserves respect and care.

God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind,
and the cattle of every kind,
and everything that creeps upon the ground
of every kind. And God saw that it was good

- Genesis 1, 25