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Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis
Order Franciscan Secular
Five Franciscan Martyrs Region
St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity
St. Petersburg, Florida



St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity meets every third Sunday of the month, except July and August, at 10:30 a.m. in the Conference Rm, Most Holy Name of Jesus, 5800 15 Ave So, Gulfport FL 33707

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Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

ORDER FRANCISCAN SECULAR

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity Newsletter

<https://www.facebook.com/OFSPadua/>

The Minister's Message

by Bob Johnston OFS

PERSEVERANCE

Let us hold and ponder the encouraging words in the letter of James. "Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously.

It appears that Jesus encountered such trials as he was confronted time and time again by the Pharisees and religious leaders of his time. We might know for ourselves what it is like to encounter an argumentative person, someone who always needs to be right or better. In such situations, we like Jesus have probably sighed from the depth of our spirit.

Let us pray this day for the faith, the grace and the perseverance to be gentle of soul, generous and gracious with everyone we encounter. Wisdom of God be grace in our lives!

(https://www.facebook.com/FSAllegany/?hc_ref=ARTsnIlo7lu2dGfq-nzSNoKCuoMGRZqjSSMDUdTrnY93nFNBSbaaxzGVZuUNX-gPfs&fref=nf)

This short paragraph from the Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany reminds us all that there is much to be gained by allowing ourselves to embrace trials as they are the tool with which we gain wisdom, a gift which is sorely lacking in today's world. It is only in the testing of ourselves that we are able to re-assess and evaluate what the Lord is trying to tell us in our journey with Him.

I find a lot of comfort whenever I struggle with something to always try to focus myself back on the Lord and on Francis who both took everything in their circumstances and embraced it as an opportunity to complete their growth and progress and turn all situations into grace.

Perseverance is defined as steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. The ability to persevere despite the difficulty of whatever our situations demands, leads to us to wisdom if we open ourselves to ask what is it that Our Lord is trying to reveal to us and how it is that we must respond to it.

The last line on the first paragraph should be the line that we remember and that is that perseverance leads us to perfection and completeness and that we lack nothing if we just remember to not lose faith, not doubt and instead focus on the quiet voice of Jesus speaking in our hearts.

A beautiful example of the fruits of perseverance is the celebration of our upcoming professions which will take place next month. These professions remind us that if we strive to perfection through discovering God's desire for us through prayer, study and steadfastness that it will always lead us to service, faithfulness and joy. **Pax et Bonum!!**

GRATITUDE

By Marie Thomas, OFS, Regional Minister

When I get discouraged or when I get down, the thing I've found that works—and works every time, and works the best, and works the fastest—is gratitude. I don't know anything that can change my internal state as powerful as getting into a space of gratitude, just to drawback from whatever it is that's going on, to draw back from whatever it is that got me discouraged or got me down, and to ask myself, "What do I have to be grateful for today?" Or "OK, what is beautiful today?" And just start to list the things, and the people, and the opportunities, and the experiences of sight, sound, smell, etc., and just mentally get myself into a place of gratitude is a really powerful technique.

There are going to be times in our journey when we are going to get down. There are going to be times when we're going to get discouraged. There are going to be times when people are going to criticize us and it's "gonna" knock us off our true north. We're going to feel disoriented, and we've got to find a way to get back on track, to refocus, to build that inner strength, to relight that flame within us. And gratitude is a very, very, very powerful technique for that.

So what are you grateful for today? Sit down, take 5 minutes, grab a notepad . . . just make a gratitude list. What are you grateful for? Write down all the things you're grateful for, the people you're grateful for, the opportunities and experiences you're grateful for.

I'm grateful for running water. Until you've been in a place where they don't have running water, it's easy to take that for granted. I'm grateful for the incredible people that I'm surrounded with in my family life and here in the Secular Franciscan Order. I look at some people in my life who are really struggling and I realize, "Wow, they don't have a group of people around them like I have around me." And sometimes that makes all the difference.

I'm grateful for a lot of things, but you know what? I forget about that sometimes. I lose sight of that. I could get focused in on the smallest thing, the darkest thing, and when I lose that sense of gratitude, things go south pretty quickly.

So I repeat: What are you grateful for today? Take 5 minutes, 10 minutes . . . sit down with a blank pad and make a gratitude list. It's amazing how it changes the way we think about life, changes the way we feel about life, changes the way we think about ourselves, and refocuses us on what God wants us focused on.



Profession Anniversary



Congratulations!

Helen McGovern 3/17/91
 Clyde Kerce 3/17/91
 Rose Tomassi 3/15/92
 Jeannette Abramo 3/21/93
 Elizabeth Wincelowicz 3/20/94
 Lillian McClelland 3/17/02

Happy Birthday!



Elena Kelly 3/05
 Kathryn Maynard, OFS 3/07
 Francine Mailhiot, OFS 3/17
 Kathleen Gerber, OFS 3/23
 Nancy Nalewaiski, OFS 3/25
 Cathy Chrzanowski OFS 3/28
 Elaine Calderon, OFS 3/31



Goodie Table

Assigned to bring refreshments for the
 March Fraternity meeting.

Kathleen Gerber
 Elena Kelly
 Betsy West

Profession of 3 candidates!!

In March we will be having the profession of Judy Born, Elena Kelly, and Betsy West. We will start with Mass in the Chapel at 10:30am.

This is a celebration!!! So we will be having a pot-luck afterwards. We are asking everyone to bring a dish to share with our newly professed members, the fraternity and their families. **It is a very joyous occasion!!!!**



Ongoing Formation

by D Susan Pivec, OFS

BELONGING TO THE CHURCH

Franciscan Focus

Francis could foresee that even his sons might do things that were opposed to holy peace and unity. He feared that some might turn into rebels, as so often happens among the chosen, puffed up by their self-importance, ready for battle and prone to scandals....

The strength of Francis is not enough to defend them from human plotting and contradicting tongues....

“Therefore, I will go and entrust them to the holy Roman Church. The evil-minded will be struck down by the rod of her power. The sons of God will enjoy complete freedom, which will help to increase eternal salvation everywhere. From now on, let the children acknowledge their mother’s sweet favor, and always follow her holy footsteps with special devotion. With her protection, nothing evil will happen to the Order, and no son of Belial will trample the vineyard of the Lord unpunished. She, the holy one, will emulate the glory of our poverty and will prevent the praises of humility from being obscured by clouds of pride. She will preserve among us the bonds of charity and peace, striking dissidents with harsh punishments. In her sight the sacred observance of purity of the Gospel will constantly flourish and she will not allow the sweet fragrance of their life to vanish even for an hour.

This was the saint’s full intent in embracing this submission; this is a precious proof of the man of God’s foreknowledge of the need for this protection in the future.

Reflection Questions

Ongoing Formation:

- 1) Francis felt that the Orders he founded were of God. He sought out Church approval and protection. Are you strong enough in your convictions to have a person of the Church discern God’s will with you?
- 2) Why or why not?

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by: Cindy Marks, OFS – Treasurer

Opening Balance Jan, 2018 \$4,976.18
Ending Balance Jan 21, 2018 \$5,216.18

Opening Balance Jan 22, 2018 \$5,216.18
Ending Balance Feb 18, 2018 \$5,888.66

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE OUR FRATERNITY IN YOUR PLANNING OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Withdrawals from 401(k)s and IRAs become required after age 70½. **WHY NOT CONSIDER A CHARITABLE DONATION “TAX FREE”** to the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity.

ANOTHER WAY to keep our fraternity financially sound is to **Create a bequest.** (Simply put a paragraph of instruction in your will or attach a codicil for this purpose. You can request a copy of a codicil for this purpose from our Treasurer.) You can accomplish much the same result by adding the name of our fraternity to your IRA or life insurance policy beneficiary form.

Thanks to all who have made their “Fair Share” contributions already, to those that have not yet done so - having it to me by the February Meeting would be greatly appreciated. We receive the regional “Fair Share” assessment in January.
Cindy Marks, OFS

Please pray for...

The continued healing of:

Grace Krist OFS

Nancy Nalewaiski OFS

Priscilla Romano OFS

Ann Hill OFS

D Susan Pivec's cousin's daughter, found deceased.

All those affected by the flu and colds.

US Military and all first responders, keep them safe.

Our 3 candidates for their profession next month

All in formation.

All unborn children.

All souls in purgatory.

Inmates in Pinellas County Jail

Family and friends



Franciscan Library, St Mary's Church

Judy Born has done a beautiful job of organizing our Franciscan Library at St. Mary Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, 515 4th Street South in St. Petersburg. There are many fine books you can read in the beautiful library room or take home. Judy has made it simple to do this.

[One idea would be to go to the daily 12:10 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's, go early, and spend some time in the library room and read about St. Francis and many others in the rich – yet poor - tapestry of the Franciscans.](#)

There is room to add a few more books to the library collections at St. Mary Our Lady of Grace Church. Our OFS St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity collection includes books about all aspects of Franciscan life, spirituality, devotionals, St. Francis and other Franciscans, and travel guides for Rome, Assisi and the Holy Land. The Legion of Mary collection includes books about Mary's life and anything related to Mary and those who dedicated their lives to her, the Rosary, and devotionals.

Please contact Judy Born if you have any books on these subjects that you would like to give to our library.

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