



Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

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Fraternity Reflections

Minister: Carol Lieser, OFS

Master of Formation: Teresa Stadelman, OFS

Treasurer: Charles "Chuck" Lieser, OFS

Vice Minister: Brad Toups, OFS

Secretary: Mary Dang, OFS

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. John Mark Klaus, T.O.R.

Fraternity meets first Sunday of the Month, 2:00pm to 4:00pm, Good Shepherd, 1000 Tinker Rd., Colleyville, Texas 76034
Inquirer/Candidate Formation class meets just before Fraternity meeting, 12:00pm to 1:30pm, at Good Shepherd

Immaculata Fraternity is a local fraternity of the Three Companions Region – www.lostrescompaneros.org

IMMACULATA FRATERNITY, OFS

May, 2019

VOL X ISSUE V



His mother said to the servers,

“Do whatever he tells you.”

John 2:5 New American Bible

Immaculata
Fraternity **OFS**

1000 Tinker Rd
Colleyville, Texas 76034

FRATERNITY NEWS

At our April Meeting...

Sunday, April 7, the Regular Meeting of the Immaculata Fraternity was called to order with 24 in attendance. Brad Toups, standing in for Carol Lieser, welcomed four new visitors from Good Shepherd who were visiting to learn more about the Secular Franciscan life and the Council presented their reports which were well received. Also, an announcement was made regarding the Fraternity's upcoming Lent Retreat which was scheduled for the following Saturday, April 13, at Good Shepherd.

Teresa, the Fraternity's Formation Director led the fraternity in Formation from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) on the first commandment:

**PART THREE
LIFE IN CHRIST
SECTION TWO
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
CHAPTER ONE**

"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND"

**ARTICLE 1
THE FIRST COMMANDMENT**

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them.³

It is written: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."⁴

Would you like to learn more about Secular Franciscans and join us in this exciting study of the catechism?

Come and see!

Secular Franciscan The way of Life



Immaculata Fraternity meets the First Sunday of every month at 2:00pm in the Saint Francis/Saint Clare room at Good Shepherd in Colleyville. We welcome you to come and join us for prayer, formation and fellowship!

Immaculata Fraternity

Come and see!

Every first Sunday, 2:00PM

May 5

June 2

Good Shepherd Catholic Community
1000 Tinker Rd.
Colleyville, TX 76034



To Our Lady

By
Mary Dixon Thayer

*Lovely Lady dressed in Blue,
Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little Boy,
Tell me what to say!
Did you lift him up, sometimes,
Gently, on your knee?
Did you sing to Him the way
Mother does to me?
Did you hold His hand at night?
Did you ever try
Telling stories of the world?
O! And did He cry?
Do you think He cares
If I tell Him things?
Little things that happen?
And do the Angels' wings
Make a noise? And can He hear
Me if I speak low?
Does He understand me now?
Tell me, for you know
Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue,
Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little Boy,
And you know the way.*



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Lady And Prayer

965 After her Son's Ascension, Mary "aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers."⁵⁰⁶ In her association with the apostles and several women, "we also see Mary by her prayers imploring the gift of the Spirit, who had already overshadowed her in the Annunciation."⁵⁰⁷

Why does Mary have a special role in helping us?

As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us. Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved. (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 53)

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, "while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed." The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/mary/frequently-asked-questions-about-blessed-virgin-mary.cfm>

A Tribute to our Mothers: Loving Connections for our Life's Journey

May is a month of many beautiful events. Among graduations, holidays, and the end of school year events, we especially remember our mothers: that is we celebrate our natural moms and our Mother Mary. There is nothing as special, and nothing that can compete with the heart of a good mother.

How do you think of your own mother? Living on this earth, with so many human differences that may occur, we realize some of us have good memories of her, while others may not have had such a blessing. What is the primary thing that comes to mind when you think of your mother? Was she caring, protecting, teaching, and loving? Was she a kind or a rigid disciplinarian? Was she present to you or a bit distracted? Was she absent, due to life circumstances or because of a choice to be so? Much of our adult life has been formed by our mothers or the mother figure in our families. For good or for bad, you each have some type of experience of mom and a connection with her that is not only genetic, but also physical and emotional. From her, you formed the framework for how to treat others and how to connect with your own children, families and friends.

Have you ever considered the motherly role of Mary? When Christ looked down from the Cross, He said to John: 'Behold your mother' and He said to Mary, 'behold your son.' In those words, you were graced with the gift of Mary as your Mother. You became the adopted child of God, a member of the heavenly family. In a very personal way you are invited into this special relationship with Mary. In a unique way, you have a perfect mother and a model that shows you how to love and who demonstrates a way to form your connections to others.

Sacred Scripture does not reveal a lot about Mary, but there is much implicitly known. Our heavenly mother is a model of many excellent things. In her humility and obedience, she accepted her call to provide human life to Jesus. In her desire to protect her baby, she and Joseph fled to Egypt. In her worries for where He had gone, she frantically searched for the then about - 12 - year - old Jesus, only to find him at the temple teaching, "being about the work of His Heavenly Father". In her recognition of His gifts and with

evident support of Him and belief in his ability to know what needed to be done, at the wedding at Cana she told them "to do whatever he asks." At His crucifixion and death, she demonstrated her fierce love and care for Jesus, her child, by staying close and ensuring that He had a burial place through the gift of Joseph of Arimathea. She was among the first to realize He was risen. When checking His tomb, she and the other women found His body was gone and she, with them, hastened to spread this news to the disciples. In all of these things, she demonstrated great love for Her Son and a motherly sacrifice for the good of her child.

These are the kinds of things she, as Our Mother, does for us. Have you ever felt the need to be held close, to be protected, to be supported, or to be cared for? Your natural mother perhaps has done all of that for you, but Mary also does these things for each one, just as she did for Jesus. This is a personal connection She has with you, and she attends to your personal needs. For out of great love and in the same special humility shown in her response to the angel Gabriel, she offers herself to you, to support your earthly journey. She is a perfect teacher of how to love one another. Even today, she spreads, through her role as Mediatrix of the Church, the good news of Christ. In her humanity, she modeled the love of a mother; in her divinity in Heaven, she continues interceding for our very best good.

This May, brother and sisters, as you engage in many activities, please reflect on the connections you have been able to form that have been taught to you by your Mothers, both your natural one and your Heavenly One. Give a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the beautiful gifts you have received because of them. In a prayerful manner, see your hand held in their hand and know you are loved. There is absolutely nothing to compare with such deep love.

Mary, Our Mother: pray for us
St Francis of Assisi: pray for us
Peace and All Good,
Carol Lieser Ofs
Minister, Immaculata Fraternity





Pope Francis'

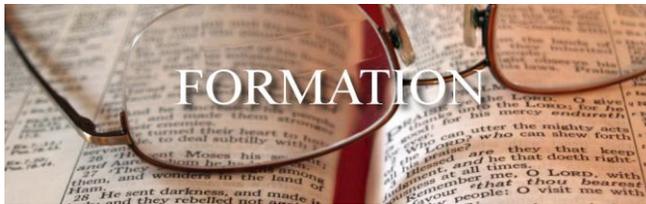
MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS

MAY

The Church in Africa, a Seed of Unity
That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

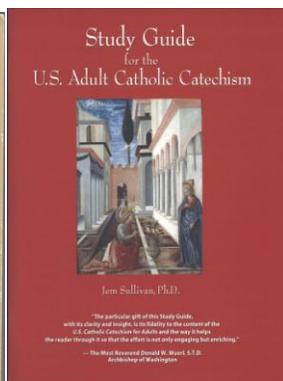
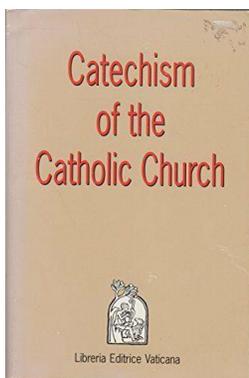
~
We also pray for

Adele McGookin, Ann Falgout, OFS; Mary Jo McCoy, OFS; Judy Bonifort, Anthony Becan, Margaret Handy, Fr. Joe Janiszski, T.O.R.; Catherine Khaled, OFS; Joseph, Joycelyn Rose Molidor, and for all special intentions.



Catechism of the Catholic Church

Study Guide



Fraternity Happenings

Down the Road!

May 5 Fraternity Meeting
June 2 Fraternity Meeting
July 7 Fraternity Meeting

May Feast Days

Saturday of III Week of Easter

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd

OFM Cap: Memorial

4. Blesseds Thomas, Henry, priests and companions, martyrs in England and Wales, I Order

OFM: *Optional Memorial*

Blessed Thomas of Olera, religious, I Order

OFM Cap: *Optional memorial*

8. Blessed Jeremiah of Wallachia, religious, I Order

OFM Cap: *Optional Memorial*

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces

OFM: *Optional Memorial*

9. St. Catherine of Bologna, virgin, II Order

II Order: *Memorial*

11. St. Ignatius of L aconi, religious, I Order

OFM Cap: *Memorial*

12. Leopold Mandi  of Herzegovina, priest, I Order

Memorial: *All Families*

13. St. Peter Regalado, priest, I Order

OFM: *Optional memorial*

16. St. Margaret of Cortona, penitent, III Order

Memorial: *III Order: Feast*

17. St. Paschal Bayl n, religious, I Order

Memorial *All Families*

18. St. Felix of Cantalice, religious, I Order

Memorial: OFM Cap: *FEAST*

19. St. Crispin of Viterbo, religious, I Order

OFM Cap: *Memorial*

St. Theophilus of Corte, priest, I Order

OFM: *Optional memorial*

20. St. Bernardine of Siena, priest, I Order

Memorial: OFM: *FEAST*

24. DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

FEAST: *All Families*

27. Blessed Jos  Tous y Soler, priest, religious founder, I Order

OFM Cap: *Optional Memorial*

28. St. Mary Ann of Jesus de Paredes, virgin, III Order

III Order: *Optional Memorial*

30. St. Ferdinand III, King, III Order

III Order: *Optional memorial*

St. Camilla Battista Varano, virgin, II Order

II Order: *Optional memorial*

For those of you reading this edition of *Fraternity Reflections* on our webpage or through Facebook, and feel called to the Franciscan way, please contact us at: carol.lieser@gmail.com and we'll be glad to direct you in the best possible way, rather it be in the Order of Secular Franciscans or in a Franciscan Religious Vocation. We'd also invite you to come to the Immaculata Fraternity meetings. *Please Note: In discerning a life with us, you must be a member of the Catholic Church in good standing and in a spirit of unity.*

We look forward to meeting you!