



Fraternity

Reflections

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis
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Minister: Carol Leiser, OFS
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Treasurer: Charles "Chuck" Leiser, OFS

Vice Minister: Brad Touns, 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 first Sunday, 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

October, 2020

VOL XVII ISSUE 9

Feast Day Saint Francis of Assisi - 4 October

**Start by doing what is necessary,
then do what is possible,
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.**



St. Francis was born at Assisi in 1182, one of many children born into a wealthy family. In his youth, Francis had an active social life, enjoying the benefits of his father's wealth and status. He fought in a war with a rival Italian city-state, and was imprisoned.

Francis received the stigmata, Christ's wounds from the Crucifixion, in his hands and feet in September 1224. Over the next two years, he grew increasingly more frail and sickly, giving his life as a "living sacrifice." Francis died on Oct. 3, 1226, and was canonized just two years later by Pope Gregory IX.

Saint of the day: Francis of Assisi, Angelus News, October 04, 2019

**"Immaculata will meet face to face at our
fraternity gathering Oct 4 at GSCC at 2 pm.
No food allowed."**

Immaculata OFS
Fraternity
1000 Tinker Rd
Colleyville, Texas 76034

Immaculata Fraternity: Minister's Letter for October

By: Carol Lieser

October 2020

As Secular Franciscans, one first thought about October may well be focused on the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi on October 3. That holy man, laid on the ground, surrounded by his brothers, embraced Sister Death with the attitude that he displayed throughout his life: joy, poverty, and great love. In all things, he sought to imitate Christ. As we know, his will was abandoned to being like Christ. He suffered with almost constant physical pain (rickets, an eye disease called trachoma that led to blindness and the five wounds of the Stigmata) and emotional pain (disturbances within the order due to its huge growth in numbers, followed by turning over the leadership and seeing Brother Peter Catalani and then Brother Elias, take the order on a new and, in his mind, less adherent path). St. Bonaventure wrote that Francis came to understand through a vision that "he would be made like to the crucified Christ not by a bodily martyrdom but by conformity in mind and heart". Francis was granted the gift of the Stigmata in September, 1224. Brother Leo, an intimate companion of the saint, left a written testimony at Francis' death and said that 'in death Francis seemed like one just taken down from the cross'. Francis died at Assisi on October 3, 1226, at the age of 44, in the Portiuncula where his obedience and devotion to God's will had begun. He was canonized as a Saint on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX.

As I reflect on the life of St Francis, I am struck with awe but also with the thought that I could never be like him. His legacy and the holiness that he lived is overwhelming to an ordinary person like me. I do not want to be disheartened by this thought but I do wonder how I can live out the Secular Franciscan promises and follow the model of charity, joy and poverty as St. Francis did. How was he able to do this? How am I also able to do this?



It occurs to me that no matter what state of life I have been given, I, too, am called to imitate Christ. As St. Pope John Paul II, wrote, 'we are all called to holiness'. Such realization helps me to feel inspired rather than overwhelmed. Drawing close to Christ, through prayer, and getting to know Him, it is inevitable that I will fall in love with Christ. I love Him because He loves me. He extends His love to me and I respond to His love. As Love begets love, such love naturally leads to the fruits of charity, poverty and joy. As I attend to Christ's presence to me, the ability to know Him, love Him and imitate Him will occur. This ability will lead me to holiness and sanctity.

This is true for each of us! We must nurture our love of Christ. He always offers it to us. We can receive it. We must focus on the Gospels, and spend time reading and understanding them. We must desire and, then, seek to imitate Christ in our individual calling. We must strive to serve His will. As our devotion to Christ increases in this manner, these things will lead someone, like me, like each one of us, to become a saint. That is happy news, indeed!

Happy Feast Day, Brothers and Sisters!

St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Peace and All Good!

May God richly bless each of you!

Carol Lieser, OFS
Minister, Immaculata fraternity

Happy Feast Day!

Transitus Celebrations

Immaculata Fraternity will celebrate Transitus, the celebration of St. Francis's death on Saturday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Catholic Community. There will be a procession of the bier, readings (from the life of Francis and from scripture), solemn intercessions, and a candlelight procession to the columbarium.

In general, the month of October will be busy for the T.O.R. Friars and most of that "business" falls the first week of the month.

The first week of October is sprinkled with commemorations of our Seraphic Father, Saint Francis of Assisi. Along with the blessing of animals on Sunday, Tuesday we mark the day that the saint embraced Sister Death and fell into eternal sleep with the Lord. That night, many within the Franciscan community will celebrate the Transitus. We will read the scriptures that he loved, sing the songs that he loved, and some will even partake of the cookies he loved and asked to be brought to him during his last days. The feast day of Saint Francis is celebrated by the Church on October 4.

This week will also be a time for secular Franciscan to revisit the life of Saint Francis and reflect upon what drew us to him and ultimately joining the Fraternity. As we celebrate these days of the saint, read his prayers, revisit his biographies, open your heart and allow yourself to again, fall in love!

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

Oct. 4

Nov. 1

Dec. 6

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



Happy Birthday!



“

**Wishing you many
congratulations on your
new bundle of joy.**

Congratulation!

Welcome to Carol and
Chuck's 3rd granchild:
William August
Wright "Auggie"

September 10, 2020 • 8:43 PM
7 LBS & 12 OZ



FRATERNITY HAPPENINGS

Down the Road!

October 3	Transitus
October 4	Fraternity Meeting
November 1	Fraternity Meeting
December 6	Renew Vow

October Feast Days

3. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus, Patron of France; St. Marie-Joseph Tossello, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1880
4. Solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis, d. 1226
5. Commemoration of the establishment of the 3 Orders
6. St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular
7. Feast of the Holy Rosary
8. St. Bridget of Sweden, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1373
10. St. Francois Borgia, Priest, d. 1572; and St. Daniel and Companions, Religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, Martyrs, d. 1227
11. Feast of the Divine Maternity of Our Lady
12. St. Seraphin of Montegrano, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1604
14. St John of Dukla, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1936
19. St. Peter of Alcantara, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1512
23. St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop, d. 1870
25. Bl. Maria Veronica Masia Ferragut, Bl. Maria Felicidad Masia Ferragut, and Bl. Jesus Masia Ferragut, Virgins, Capuchin religious, Martyrs 1936
26. Bl. Martyrs of the War of Spain, 1936-37
29. Bl. Thomas of Florence, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1447
30. Bl. Angelo of Acre, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1739
31. Bl. Christophe de Cahors, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1272



Sunday 9/27/2020

Inquiry: 12:30 pm

ch. 14 | Pages 155 - 163, questions are on pg. 162

Candidacy: 4 pm

ch. 17 | Pages 188 - 194, questions are on pg. 193 and 194

Location: 1007 Turtle Lake Blvd., Irving Tx. 75060

Please: record your answers on paper and come ready to share on the 27th.



- Areas of California and Oregon affected by the wildfires.
- Mary Jo McCoy's health
- End to Coronavirus pandemic
- Jim and Robert Gordon
- Peaceful repose of Mary Gordon+
- All of personal intentions of the members of Immaculata fraternity
- Our church, our pope and all priests
- and religious.
- William August Wright born Sept 10 grandchild of Carol and Chuck Lieser

Saint Francis Almond Cookies

Yields:

- 3 dozen cookies
- Ingredients
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs beaten
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/3 cup oil
- 8 oz. sliced almonds
- 2 3/4 cups flour

Preparation

- Preheat oven to 350°
- Combine and blend sugars, eggs, almond extract in large electric mixer.
- Add baking powder, cinnamon, water, oil, almonds and flour all at once to the sugar mixture. Mix all until well blended.
- Take teaspoon of dough and drop each on slightly greased cookie sheet about 1 inch apart.
- Bake 12 minutes, let sit for 10 minutes to cool.



"Brother" Jacoba and Saint Francis

"Bring me the delicious almond cookies that you prepared for me when I was ill in Rome." Saint Francis to "Brother" Jacoba, as he lay dying



There is one story about Saint Francis that deserves more attention – his beloved Roman friend, Giacoma Frangipane de Settesoli, also known as Lady or Brother Jacoba.

Francis seems to have met this wealthy woman who provided him with a place to stay while in Rome. She provided some land that the friars used as a hospice lepers. She later helped the Franciscans obtain the property that his now the church of San Francesco a Ripa Grande.

She was a great friend of Francis and arrived at the Porziuncula as Francis was dying. As Augusting Thompson writes in Francis of Assisi: a new biography:

"No outside visitors were permitted to see Francis, with one exception, a woman whose importance to him is known only from the stories told about the days immediately before his death. She was Jacoba de' Settesoli, a matron of means from a prominent Roman family. Perhaps this woman belonged to the circle of pious Roman women that included the recluse Sister Pressede, of whom Francis was also very fond. Jacoba had provided Francis with lodging during his visits to Rome, and he remembered her with great fondness. She was probably the only woman with whom Francis ever developed a close friendship, one so close that he even called her a "brother" and excepted her from the rules excluding women from the cloister. He asked the brothers to send her a message, informing her of his impending death. He asked that she prepare him a gray shroud for burial, modeled on the burial robe used for monks of the Cistercian Order.

In a moment of nostalgia, Francis also asked her to send him some of the confection of almonds and honey that the Romans called mostacciolo that she used to make for him during his visits. "In fact, word of Francis's decline had already reached Jacoba. Before his message could even be sent, she arrived at the friary. Asked what to do about the arrival of a woman, Francis, as in the past, told them that the rule of cloister did not apply to her, especially since she had traveled so far to see him. As it turned out, she had already bought gray cloth for the shroud, incense and wax for the funeral rites, and all the ingredients needed to make the mostacciolo. The brothers took her offerings to make the shroud and funeral candles. She prepared the confection, but Francis was now so sick that he could hardly eat any of it."



Francis, ascetic though he was, did not hesitate to be close friends with a rich Roman woman, nor was he loathe to ask her to bring a special almond treat that she had prepared for him when he was sick in Rome. This was the man who would spread ashes on his food so that he would not enjoy it too much! Francis, welcoming sister death, also welcomed "Brother" Jacoba and recognized the right of a righteousness woman to be present in the cloister where he was dying. Brother Jacoba is an example of a woman who lived in the world but as a member of the Order of Penance (the lay Franciscans) did not hesitate to serve the poor and God's people. She is buried in the crypt of the Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi, close to the tomb of the saint who inspired her and who loved her almond treats.