

# Our Franciscan Life

Vol. 22 No. 11

Our Lady of Consolation Fraternity Newsletter

November 2022

## St. Francis prays . . .

Lord, show me Poverty whom you loved so dearly.

Merciful Jesus, have pity on me:

I am full of yearning for my Lady Poverty;

I can find no peace without her.

You, Lord, it was who first

aroused love for her in my heart;

grant me the privilege of possessing her.

I yearn to be enriched by this treasure.

I earnestly implore you,

it may belong to me and mine forever.

Jesus, you were very poor, and I want to call

nothing under heaven mine but only to live

on what others may give me.

*(Recorded by Ubertino de Casale in  
Arbor Vitae 19-21.)*

## Fraternity Schedule

### NOVEMBER

1 – ALL SAINTS

17 – COUNCIL MEETING, 6:30, Zoom

20 – OFS MEETING, 2:00, FRH, PRIOR LAKE

Prayer – Dn. Bob Meeting in person & Zoom

Ongoing Formation (Chapt 36) – Paula

Treats – Mary

24 – THANKSGIVING DAY

30 – ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER, 9:30-3:00pm, FRH

### DECEMBER

7 – ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER, 9:30am-3:00pm, FRH

8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

14 – ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER, 9:30am-3:00pm, FRH

18 – OFS MEETING, 2:00, FRH, PRIOR LAKE

Prayer – Wendy

Social Gathering

Please bring hors d'oeuvres to share

25 – CHRISTMAS

### JANUARY

1 – MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

X – COUNCIL MEETING, 6:30, FRH, PL Zoom

15 – OFS MEETING, 2:00, FRH, PRIOR LAKE

Prayer – Meeting in person & Zoom

Ongoing Formation (Chapt 37) -

Treats –

## Franciscan of the Month

**Mary of the Passion (1839-1904)** came from a distinguished French family in Nantes. In 1860, she joined the Poor Clares but poor health forced her to leave them a year later. In 1864, she joined the Sisters of Mary Reparatrix and worked in missions of India from 1865 to 1876. She established the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in 1882 when she adopted the Third Order Rule. They remain an order active in missionary work. She once said: "I wish I had two lives: one with which I could always pray, the other, with which to perform all the duties God imposes on me" The cause for her beautification has been introduced in Rome.

## Mission Statement

We strive to make present in our life the charism of St. Francis within our family, fraternity, community, and in the life and mission of the Church, through a life of renewal and growth in the Spirit. At fraternity gatherings, we foster an active participation of each member in the life of the fraternity to experience community by: a deep personal and communal knowledge of the Lord Jesus and one another through prayer, the sharing of insights and ways of applying the gospel life to our everyday experiences, through on-going formation, and our faith sharing, as well as through our monthly newsletter and many ministries.

## The Austerity of Autumn

Late autumn can be a solemn time as the leaves depart from the trees, the wind grows steadily colder and the ground turns brown. It is easy to feel sad and depressed at this time because of nature's seeming deprivation. The prayer of Francis this month suggests an appropriate response. We can accept deprivation because the forced austerity it imposes can bring us closer to God. We really don't have much choice about the weather, so why not use it for Franciscan purposes?

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*Dr. Steven Schier, OFS*

## Keeping in touch...

### *October Fraternity Meeting*

Twelve professed members attended. One more joined us via ZOOM. Also present were Spiritual Assistant, Alan Weier and four guests. Our October meeting was a celebration of the renewal of our Franciscan profession commitment. Our prayer was Mass with Fr. Jim Van Dorn. Deacon Bob Wagner OFS provided the music, played the piano and led the singing. The Renewal of Profession was recited after the homily.

Three members who attended the Quinquennial meetings in Phoenix August 3-7 each gave a report. They expressed appreciation for the financial support provided by the fraternity. Mary shared excerpts from the keynote speaker. He suggested developing our mission with service and friendship to others and by active listening. Some simple ways would be respect for people we meet at the grocery check-out, and those we encounter each day. Secular Franciscans can bring about a new evangelical world. Wendy told how the first night set the mood with a celebration song, with folks singing and laughing together. She felt an instant bond with people from all over the world. Cindy said the Quinquennial meeting was well organized. They were encouraged to study the Rule. We all need prayer, stillness, contemplation and trust in God. One speaker showed that we can build a more fraternal world with acts of kindness. We must try not to exclude others. Also at the Quin, "art" was seen as the outward expression of the Love of God.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2381. Fair Share due in 2023: \$60/ each professed. Agenda items for the next few months will include a review of prayer services at gatherings and council job descriptions and preparation for the regional fraternal visit scheduled for May 2023. First, we will take up the area of prayer practices which involve a task force of 5-6 members who have an interest and ideas to share. Mary will convene the group and present a list of tasks, with a report to the fraternity in Nov.

We were reminded of the Friends of Francis Retreat October 28-30. Our fraternity has been asked to help restore one of the prayer stations in the woods at the retreat center. Marge Ehr is in a nursing home in Hastings. Ed Vierling's mother had heart surgery. Both need our prayers. Cindy presented a list of needs for the homeless in encampments. She will deliver any of these items that are brought to the November gathering. Treats for fellowship time were provided by Wendy and Paula.

Our next gathering will be November 20, 2022 at 2:00.

Submitted by secretary Paula Spranger

November birthdays: Ann (11) Mary Ann (12) Marge (23)  
Pat Fox (28) Patricia



Thanks to Fr. Jim, Alan, Dn. Bob, Peter and Bonnie who agreed to review fraternity prayer. We will look at some best practices and offer guidelines for members leading fraternity prayer. These will be suggestions, not requirements. Mary

*Let's give thanks for all the saints who have inspired and interceded for us over the centuries, especially St. Francis of Assisi. Pray for us.*

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