

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN!!

HAPPY EASTER!!

Sisters and Brothers,

This month's Poverello is a different version from what you are used to due to technical difficulties. We plan to get back to our normal format in the near future.

Our **Blessed Easter Season** gives us hope in the resurrection and the life to come. Our faith is a witness to this truth – a truth received directly from the Apostles. Francis believed this truth and lived it out radically in his life. He is our witness to Gospel living and a way of life we strive to live out faithfully each day through our Rule.

“One day while Francis was weeping in a solitary place as he looked back over the past years in bitterness, the joy of the Holy Spirit came over him and he was assured of thee complete forgiveness of all his sins. Then he was caught up above himself and totally engulfed in a wonderful light, and, with his inmost soul opened wide, he clearly saw what would transpire for him and his sons and daughters in the future.” Bonaventure, The Major Legend of St Francis.

Francis gives witness to eternal hope. He embraced the cross and kept his eye on heaven and the life to come. These are the promises Jesus gives to each one of us for staying faithful to the end. Francis lived in difficult and confusing times with much division in the church, war, civil authorities and families. Is his reality much different from ours? I think not. We are battling powerful forces too...government division, COVID pandemic, Russian-Ukraine war, economic uncertainty, nuclear and technical threats to just name a few. Like Francis we are not alone. We have the confidence, joy and love of God. Let us trust the inspirations of the Holy Spirit that he will lead us through our troubled times. Continue to pray, read scripture, receive the sacraments and give witness to the Gospel Life by each of your actions. Through our faithfulness and in union with the Holy Spirit we will embrace the cross and in the darkness Jesus' light will shine through us. What a beautiful gift he has given us – his very own life.

Our hospitality ministry is back! We set up and served soup with Sally McCuen at the **Solanus Center's Wednesday Lenten Series**. The dining room was full with guests and we had fun visiting and serving them.

We continue to have **eucharist adoration on the First Friday** of the month. We will need adorers for **May 6**. Let me know if you can participate:

Eucharistic Adoration Friday May 6 Schedule:

9:30am – Melissa Lindow; Sidney Davis

10:00am – Joe Quesnelle

11:00am – Mary Myler

Noon – Ron and Sharon Kessler; Julia E-Donahue

1:00pm – Paula Jerzy
2:00pm – Bernadette Mikowski
3:00pm – Eileen Smith

October 12 – 15: The Divine Mercy Region is hosting the National OFS Meeting in Detroit.
There will be a day for the members to visit the Solanus Casey Center. More details to follow in future Poverellos.

We continue to **collect white towels and socks** for the **Capuchin Shower Program**.

Active members **unable to attend our monthly fraternity gathering** in person or on Zoom please email or text Bernadette Mikowski at 313.586.4806 berniemikowski@yahoo.com or leave a message on our office phone 313.579.2100 x1136. This will ensure absences are recorded as excused. In keeping with our rule your monthly contributions are greatly appreciated.

We will celebrate our **Jubilarian Mass on Sunday May 15** at 1:30pm. The Liturgy will be for the Fifth Sunday of Easter. We will have a potluck after the mass. Please bring a dish to past. There will not be a zoom link for the Jubilarian Mass.

Peace and Blessings,

Eileen

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Mary Myler	April 1
Sharon Kessler	April 1
Gloria Tibbetts	April 6
Ruby Thompson	April 14
Doris Allen	April 23
Anna Ortego-Seitz	April 23
Loretta Chmielarczyk	April 30
Deloris Samulski	April 30

Congratulations - Steve and Jennifer Wasko – March 13, 2022



REFLECTION

Formation by Diane F. Menditto, OFS Chair, National Formation Commission

Formation Friday is the work product of the National Formation Commission of the Secular Franciscan Order-USA. Please keep all citations and references intact. (This statement should be included with any posts in emails, on websites, or on social media.)

Secular Franciscans are called to conversion: (First appeared in 2020)

OFS Rule: Chapter 2: Art. 7

- United by their vocation as “brothers and sisters of penance,” and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls “conversion.” Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.
- On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father's mercy and the source of grace.

Also see Article 13 of the General Constitutions

Conversion is symbolized as a **JOURNEY of TRANSFORMATION** led by the Spirit of God

- Communal experience—encouragement and witness
- On-going process, celebrated in stages with Eucharist as highpoint
- Conversion is a lifetime experience of transformation

5 Fundamental Elements of Penitential Lifestyle

1. To love God
2. To love our neighbor
3. To resist sinful tendencies of our fallen nature
4. To receive the body of Christ in the Eucharist
5. To act or live in conformity with our conversion

See FUN Manual -Penitence and Conversion

To discuss or to answer in your journal. How will we live our conversion?

- In what ways would you like to make progress spiritually during Lent? What do you want to improve in your relationship with God and with others?
- What is the meaning of the phrase, “that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls ‘conversion?’”
- What is the focus of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? How important is this for us as Secular Franciscans?
- After having viewed or read some of the resources below, what will you put into practice in your daily life?

April Franciscan Calendar

April 3 - St. Benedict the Black

April 16 - St. Bernadette Soubirous

April 17 - St. Benedict Joseph Labre

April 21 - St. Conrad of Parzham

April 23 - Bl. Giles of Assisi

April 24 - St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

April 28 - Bl. Luchesius