

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY, OFS #49

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CHURCH

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462

SUMMER 2019

MINISTERS CORNER – Anne O’Leary

Please keep "Virginia Beach/STRONG" in prayer! We all mourn the 12 lives lost due to a senseless and tragic act. As Franciscans, we all need to "teach" others the "way of Peace" by the way we live our daily lives. Work, play, home we really NEED to be the bearers of PEACE for every person with whom we come in contact. That is the example Jesus/Francis/Clare have passed on to us. In the month of July, we celebrate our nation's birth in a struggle for freedom from a tyranny that sought to deny us our God-given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. PLEASE, *pray for our nation*, that we may all learn to turn our faces back to the ONLY ONE who will bring TRUE PEACE. So, as you enjoy your 4th of JULY parties, stop, drop, and ask GOD to grant us graces of conversion. If we humble ourselves and pray, the Lord has promised to hear our prayers and turn HIS face to us once again. In September, remember the workers we honor on Labor Day. This "last of our summer holidays" is a chance to recall all we shared as summer nears its end. On that day, let us pray for one another that each of us may do our part to work to make this nation "GREAT" again. In a special way, let us pray for all who go to work and again "plan to come home safely" without any danger to life and limb. Pray for our children who return to school, asking the Lord to cover them protectively with the "Blood of Jesus" so they are able to go and learn in a secure and enlightened environment. As "People of Peace", we have much intercession to make every day. We also have much for which to give "Thanks", so let's "find the blessing daily" in everything GOD has given us. As Francis did God's Will in his day, we can do it in ours!! As I pray God's choicest Blessings on all of you, I gratefully acknowledge that I'm BLESSED to be your Servant Minister.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

ANNE O’LEARY – MINISTER
MICHAEL COLEMAN – VICE MINISTER
DON SCHWAB- FORMATION DIRECTOR
BARBARA LIZANA – TREASURER
GERRI NOJADERA – SECRETARY
VANESSA NEMARA - EDITOR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fraternity Meeting Tobias Room

July 21, 2019

August 18, 2019

September 15, 2019 – Elections Positions

Council positions• Minister• Vice-Minister• Formation Director• Treasurer•

Formation Meeting Second Saturday of each month in Damian Room

Council Meetings

July 6 no Council Meeting

Aug 3 Council Meeting

Sept 7 Final Council Meeting - existing council members

JULY 11-14, 2019 10 Summer Seminar for secular Franciscans contact jlehman@francis.edu

August 2, Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula, Plenary Indulgence possible by visiting a church or chapel of the Franciscan 1st Order

August 10, visit to Poor Clares

Bethlehem Monastery, Barhamsville, VA

August 11, 2019 Feast of St Clare – Plenary Indulgence for Tertiaries

Aug 18 Final Fraternity Meeting under old Council

Profession of Candidates – TBD



CAPTAIN CHRIS HILL

FRANCISCANS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CHRIS HILL – Chris joined the Secular Franciscan Order to enrich his spiritual life and attempt to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis, understanding that as a warfighter he would have to struggle with the balance of military life and living as a Franciscan in the world. Chris is an active duty US Navy Captain who recently served as an Executive Officer on the USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77), and before that, the Commanding Officer of a squadron. As a leader he has found countless opportunities to blend both worlds. Sometime succeeding and other times failing miserably. However, always keeping at the forefront the inclusive teaching of St. Francis. Chris is currently making preparations to Command the USS Arlington (LPD-24) . Chris resides in Norfolk, VA and attends Blessed Sacrament Parish, Norfolk, VA. Chris is married to his wife Kristen and has two daughters, Sophie and Marie. Congratulations on your new Command.

GOSPEL TO LIFE, LIFE TO GOSPEL

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Soon several Candidates will be professing into the Order of Franciscan Secular. Having worked through formation since 2017, these candidates are preparing to enter a new phase of their lives to engage in apostolic work and various ministries with a particular outreach to the poor, and marginalized and a focus on peace, justice and care of creation.

Let's meet the candidates –



Vanessa A. Nemara – works in several ministries in her parish, St Stephen Martyr, Chesapeake, VA but wanted more. Being led by St Anthony of Padua, Vanessa found that the Order Franciscan Secular has opened a religious world previously unknown to her. Vanessa wanted to become a nun in her youth however her family said no. The ability to live a religious life as a lay woman through the teachings of St. Francis and St. Clare and outwardly wearing the Tau have given her strength to express the Catholic Faith and the order in everyday actions.

Vanessa participates in the St. Paul Street Evangelization program meeting at Mt. Trashmore, Virginia Beach, VA. She brings her love of being a Catholic and being Franciscan, to people who stop at the table, who need prayer or just someone to listen to their life issues.

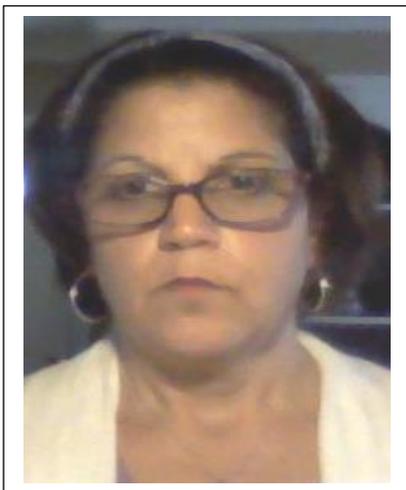
Vanessa is a retired civil servant, with 34 years of service to the United States Government. Retired in 2008 from the then relatively new Dept. of Homeland Security, specifically the US Coast Guard. Vanessa continues her business career with the military and is employed, since 2014, as a contractor with the US Coast Guard.

Vanessa has one daughter and 5 grandchildren, three granddaughters and two grandsons. ***God's Peace and Blessings be with you.***



MARIA ONA - I was born and raised in the Philippines where my faith was deeply rooted and developed my fun-loving nature and love for music. I was educated by Carmelite contemplatives, but I always find myself contemplating on the Prayer of St Francis.

I migrated to America after getting married. My husband and I have 2 children. I am a Pediatrician in Franklin VA. I play piano for St Jude Parish, Franklin, VA and teach Sunday school. My spiritual journey gravitates towards the simplicity and truth of the words JOY, PEACE and LOVE becoming flesh/real as revealed to me through Franciscan charisms. I want to be someone filled with simple joy in my heart, peace of mind, so full that they pour out of my being as love for God and neighbor.



Lisa Codispoti- is not as intense as her pic would lead you to believe... She has, however, been a high school English teacher for nearly 20 years now so the stern expression, much to her dismay, has somehow managed to become her default face. A parishioner at St Joseph, Hampton, VA, her Catholic faith and love for the Lord does prevent that stern expression from taking up residence in her heart though.

After considerable discernment, she has come to recognize the Franciscan spirit of ...going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel, is the Truth that must govern the rest of her life. It is for this reason she is saying yes to the Secular Franciscan Order. In the spirit and tradition of the Franciscans, she desires to faithfully live out her days as an adorer, sister, daughter, aunt, friend, educator, Bible study facilitator, spiritual director and whatever else the Lord may place in her path. "Set me as a seal upon Your heart, a seal upon Your arm" (Songs 8:6) is her greatest longing.



Patricia Britz -is an active member of the Sacred Heart Church, Norfolk, VA Choir, Justice and Peace Committee, and a Eucharist Minister. She has been the Chair of the Haiti Twinning Ministry since 2007. She has made 20 pilgrimages to her church's twin parish, Saint Gabriel, Haiti.

Her ministry work gives her the opportunity to go from scriptures to life and from life to scriptures. Her pastime is to write about our marginalized brothers and sisters, learn Haitian Creole, and study Catholic Social Teaching. She is a member of the Just Faith Community and has completed various courses, the latest being Self Non-Violence.

Patricia felt called to go further in her spirituality and has been taking spiritual direction from a Catholic Nun since 2009. She wishes to share peaceful and compassionate fellowship, prayers simple living, and faith-in action with her Franciscan community in the spirit of Saint Francis.



Grace Cintron-Matias is a World Language Teacher at Grassfield High School, Chesapeake, VA. Prior to this, she worked for middle school students in two different Suffolk Public schools. Her first teaching job was in a Marian Preparatory HS in Massachusetts. She loved being able to go to the chapel for adoration & prayer during the day. Grace has been highly active for many years in her parish -St. Gregory the Great, Virginia Beach, VA. She coordinates and assists in many events within the Hispanic ministries.

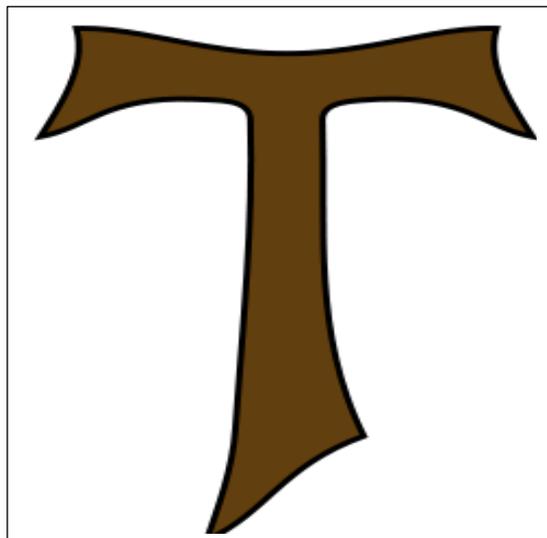
Grace had an enthusiastic hunger for God's wisdom and a clear understanding that the kingdom of God is built through service, and a strong testimony of Jesus' presence with charitable actions and good deeds.

Through St. Francis of Assisi and following his footsteps, Grace shows Jesus to all – strangers, co-workers and the less fortunate. Even though it's hard at times, she says, the journey intrigues, fulfills and challenges her.

Grace has a wonderful husband, Jaime, that supports her. They have been married for 18 years. She has a set of twins, James Gabriel and Paola Cristina and the youngest, Michael Isaac.

SERVICE TO GOD THROUGH LIVING

GOSPEL TO LIFE, LIFE TO GOSPEL



IN THE NEWS –

On Saturday June 29, 2019, approximately 25 men and women from several parishes and Order of Franciscan Secular, came to pray the Rosary on the corner of Volvo Parkway and Greenbrier Parkway, in Chesapeake, VA, in opposition to Barnes and Nobles nationwide decision to present Pride Storytime at its stores. This is on the heels of Slover Library in Norfolk, VA starting Drag Queen Storytime hour at its library the weekend before. These valiant men and woman took an unpopular position, to publicly protect the City of Chesapeake's children and grandchildren when it appears that others would not. Catholics representing St Benedicts Chapel, Holy Trinity Parish, St. Stephen Martyr Parish and Gregory the Great Parish, and Order of Franciscan Secular of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, rallied in the only manner that Catholics predominantly can, asking Our Lady Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede on behalf of the children through praying 15 decades of the Holy Rosary and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the face of curses, hand gestures and other persecutions, these men and woman lived Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel by taking a stand against spreading this sin of homosexuality to innocent children who cannot protect themselves.

Catholics are taught to love everyone. Love the sinner but not the sin. That line is hard to ascertain at times and makes discussion about this subject hard, difficult, frightening, uncomfortable, especially when it is within a family environment. However, these actions by Barnes and Noble and Slover Library provide an easy to visualize line between love and sin. These entities who work closely with children are spreading the sin of homosexuality and robbing the young of their innocence.

Here is a look at the men and women who took up the challenge and spread the Gospel -



Many of these men and women have committed to boycotting Barnes and Noble and Slover Library until they change their hurtful actions against innocent children. If you wish to add your comments against Barnes and Noble national decision, it can be reached at 757-382-0220 or Ms. Keating at mkeating@bn.com The Barnes and Noble website on this event is <https://stores.barnesandnoble.com/event/9780062029218-0> . Slover Library has changed its Drag Queen Story Time hour from Saturday morning to Sunday morning when most Catholics are at church worshipping. St Francis approached a town in Italy and was met by residents who told him to bypass their town because they didn't want to hear what he had to say. Instead he walked through the town silently. When he reached the other side of town, he turned to his traveling companion and said, we have just spread the Gospel. Even if you can not be at a location where sin is being spread, you can silently pray for those who would do harm to innocents.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION -

In May, the fraternity was gifted with a visit from Br. Steven Wright from Washington, DC. B r. Steve shared from “Francis of Assisi in His Own Words: The Essential Writings.

Be humble, gentle of heart. Our name is Sacred Heart Fraternity. This should be a primary focus. How are we doing this?

The Our Father. We are the sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. This prayer, The Our Father, which God himself taught us, reminds us who we are.

Brother Steve Wright



***Front Row: Elizabeth Williams, William Wallace, Lisa Codispoti, Patricia Britz, Gerri Nojadera, Ariceli Su, Theresa Penalosa
Second Row: Mike Coleman, Chris Hill, Br. Steve Wright, Don Schwab***



PEACE AND JUSTICE

Reprinted from The Catholic Virginian May 20, 2019 edition

Washington (CNS) – Four US bishops, chairman of US Conference of Catholic Bishops committees or subcommittees, have signed on to a letter voicing religious freedom concerns with the Equality Act, introduced in the House this year.

They are part of a group of a dozen Christian leaders who signed the May 7 letter to House members.

In the letter, the signers said they have “grave concern over the devastating consequences of religious freedom” should the bill pass in its current form.

The Equality Act “would devastate the core ministries of a wide range of religious groups, especially those ministries that serve the most vulnerable and that help form members of our faiths to serve the common good,” they said.

The bill would “add the terms ‘sexual orientation’ and ‘gender identity’ to the definition of ‘sex’ in federal civil rights laws and have wide-reaching consequences for both employment and delivery of service standards in religiously affiliated schools, shelters, foster care and adoption agencies, potentially houses of worship, and other facilities and ministries,” it added.

“These religious freedom concerns are not hypothetical or academic. The Equality Act undercuts the religious freedom of millions of Americans who live out their faith by serving others through religiously motivated charitable ministries and organizations.”

The letter cited several potential ill effects:

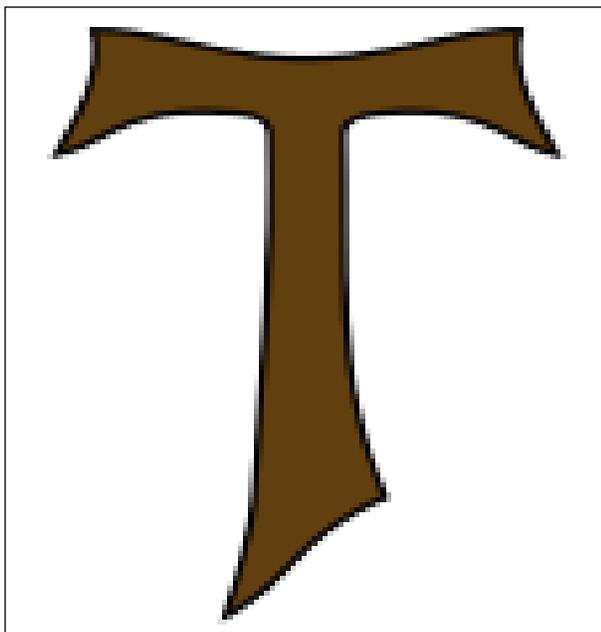
- “Houses of worship and other religious spaces will be turned into places of ‘public accommodation.’”
- “Federal funds will be denied to thousands of houses of worship, schools, and charities that currently receive them.”
- “Religious adoption and foster care providers would be devastated, harming innocent children and families.”
- “Many privately funded shelters for the homeless and victims of domestic violence would be rendered illegal, ripping a hole in the social safety net.”
- “Core rights would be stripped from religious colleges and universities.”
- “Houses of worship, religious charities, and religious individuals will lose the protection of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.”
- “Religious individuals would be forced to take part in weddings and funerals that violate their religious beliefs.”

“The Equality Act regulates a huge new swath of religious activity and facilities as ‘public accommodations’ and transforms the conditions by which hundreds of thousands of faith-based entities partner with the federal government to service the common good,” the letter said. “It accomplishes these goals while bringing the daunting power of the federal government to bear against religious people and groups with nonconforming views about marriage, sexuality, and gender.” The bishops who signed the letter are Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, Archbishop Joseph EB Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty; Bishop Michael C. Barber of Oakland California Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Catholic Education; and Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, Chairman of the USCCCB Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

Archbishop Kurtz and Bishops Dewane and Conley, on March 20, sent their own letter to members of Congress on the Equality Act, contending the bill would “regulate thought, belief and speech,” “explicitly retract religious freedom granted by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act”, hinder quality health care,” “endanger privacy,” “threaten charitable services” and “exclude people from various career paths and livelihoods.”

“The Equality Act would impose sweeping regulations to the detriment of society as a whole” and its” definitions alone would remove women and girls from protected legal existence,” the three bishops said in March. “Furthermore, the act also fails to recognize the difference between the person – who has dignity and is entitled to recognition of it – and the actions of a person, which have ethical and social ramifications. conflating the two will introduce a plethora of further legal complications,” they said.

On Tuesday, May 14, the USCCB issued an alert encouraging Catholics to contact their senators and representatives <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/64633/Respond> and urge them to oppose the Equality Act.



FRANCISCAN CALENDAR OF SAINTS

July – Month of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ



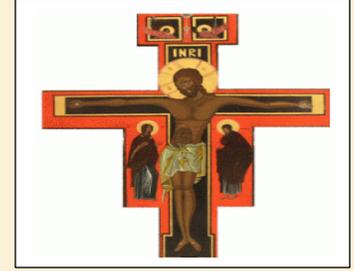
- 1. Feast of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
- 2. Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady**
- 3. Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1886**
- 4. 40 Martyrs of China, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order and Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1900**
- 5. Bl. Ignace Falzon, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1865**
- 6. St. Maria Goretti, Virgin Martyr, Cordbearer, d. 1902**
- 7. Bl. Oddin Barotto, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1400**
- 8. St. Elisabeth of Portugal, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1336**
- 9. St. Veronica Giuliani, Virgin, Capuchin religious, d. 1727**
- 10. 8 Martyrs religious of the Franciscan 1st Order of Damas, d. 1860**
- 11. 11 Martyrs religious of the Franciscan 1st Order of Holland, d. 1572**
- 12. Sts. Geoffroy and Joachim, Priests, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyrs 1679**
- 13. St. Francis Solano, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1610**
- 14. St. Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1274**
- 15. Bl. Bernard de Bade, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1458**
- 16. Our Lady of Mount Carmel; St. Marie-Madeleine Postel, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1846**
- 17. Bl. Pierre De Foligno, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1614**
- 18. St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1614**
- 19. St. Vincent de Paul, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1660**
- 20. St. Jerome Emilien, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1537**
- 21. St. Laurent de Brindes, Priest, Capuchin religious, Doctor of the Church, d. 1619**
- 22. Bl. Angeline of Marciano, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1435**
- 23. Bl. Louise de Savoie, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1503**
- 24. Bl. Modestin de Jesus-Marie, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1864**
- 25. Bl. Antoine Lucci, Bishop, Conventual religious, d. 1752**
- 26. St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 27. Bl. Marie-Madeleine Martinengo, Virgin, Capuchin, d. 1737**
- 28. Bl. Marie-Therese of the Infant Jesus, Virgin, Capuchin, martyr 1941**
- 29. Bl. Alphonse de l'Immaculee, virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1946**
- 30. St. Leopold de Castelnuovo, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1942**
- 31. St. Ignace de Loyola, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1556**

August – Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



- 1. St. Alphonse de Liguori, Bishop, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1787**
- 2. Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula, Plenary Indulgence possible by visiting a church or chapel of the Franciscan 1st Order**
- 3. St. Pierre-Julien Eymard, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1868**
- 4. St. Dominic, Priest, Cordbearer, d. 1221**
- 5. B. Marie-Francoise de Jesus, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1904**
- 6. Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
- 7. Bl. Agathange et Cassien, Priest, Capuchin, martyr 1638**
- 8. St. Jean-Marie Vianney, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1859**
- 9. Bl. Marie-Marguerite of the Sacred Heart, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1924**
- 10. St. Beatrice de Silva, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1492**
- 11. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1689**
- 12. St. Clare of Assisi, Virgin, Foundress of the Poor Clares, Plenary Indulgence for Tertiaries (Renewal of Engagements)**
- 13. Bl. Novellon de Faenza, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1280**
- 14. St. Maximilien-Marie Kolbe, Priest, Conventual religious, martyr 1941**
- 15. Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady**
- 16. Bl. Francois de Pesaro, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1350**
- 17. St. Roch de Montpellier, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1327**
- 18. Blessed Martyrs of Pontons de Rochefort, d. 1794**
- 19. St. Jean Eudes, Priest, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute, d. 1680**
- 20. St. Louis d' Anjou, Bishop of Toulouse, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1297**
- 21. St. Jeanne-Francoise de Chantal, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1610**
- 22. Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**
- 23. Bl. Bernard d'Offide, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1694**
- 24. St. Emilie de Vialar, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1856**
- 25. St. Louis, Patron of Franciscan Third Order Seculars, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers**
- 26. Bl. Pierre de Benisa, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936**
- 27. St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest, Cordbearer, d. 1648**
- 28. Bl. Junipero Serra, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1784**
- 29. Bl. Jean de Perouse, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1231**
- 30. Bl. Juvenal Ancina, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1604**
- 31. Bl. Aurele de Vinalesa, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936**

September – Month of the Holy Cross



1. *Bl Joachim de Albocacer, Priest, Capuchin religious, martyr 1936*
2. *Bl. Martyrs de Carmes, d. 1792*
3. *St. Pius X, Pope, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1914*
4. *St. Rose of Viterbo, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1252 Plenary Indulgence for cordbearers*
5. *Bl. Gentil de Matelica, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1340*
6. *Bl Liberat de Laure, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1258*
7. *Bl. Eugenie Picco, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1921*
8. *Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
9. *Bl. Seraphique Sforza, Virgin, of the Franciscan 2nd-Order; a "Poor Clare" sister, d. 1478*
10. *Bl. Martyrs of Japan, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order and Franciscan Third Order Seculars, d. 1622-1632*
11. *Bl. Bonaventure de Barcelone, lay brother, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1684*
12. *Feast of the Name of Holy Mary*
13. *Bl. Apollinaire Franco, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, martyr 1622*
14. *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*
15. *Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows*
16. *Bl. Roland de Medicis, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1386*
17. *Feast of the Stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi*
18. *St. Joseph de Cupertino, Priest, Conventual, d. 1664*
19. *Bl. Louis Alleman, Bishop, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1450*
20. *St. Francois-Marie de Camporosso, lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1866*
21. *Bl. Elizabeth Amerina, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1498*
22. *Bl. Ignace de Santhia, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1773*
23. *St. Pio of Peitrelcina, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1968*
24. *St. Pacifique de San Severino, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1721*
25. *St. Nicholas de Flue, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1487*
26. *Bl. Lucie de Catalagirone, Virgin, religious of the Third-Order Regular [living in community, under a Rule], d. 1400*
27. *St. Elzear de Sabran, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1323*
28. *Bl Bernadin de Feltre, Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1494*
29. *Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel*
30. *Bl. Charles de Blois, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1364*

JULY 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

God, Our Father, Giver of Life, we entrust our Nation to your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded.

You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for your glory and dwell among your people.

Send your spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, patroness of our Land, Grant Us the Courage to reject the "Culture of Death". Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord, Amen



GOD BLESS AMERICA

PRAY FOR OUR NATION