



Franciscan Whispers



Minister: Anne O'Leary, OFS

Newsletter of the Sacred Heart Fraternity, Virginia Beach, VA

WEB Page: <http://virginiabeachofs-org.webs.com>

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Items & complaints for the Newsletter should be e-mailed to:
vacanebrake@yahoo.com

Note from Editor:

Meetings are held every third Sunday (unless otherwise announced) at St. Gregory's at 2:15 p.m. in the Brother Tobias Room. Visitors are always welcome.

Sacred Heart Fraternity's Transitus:

We will be meeting at St. Pious X, in Norfolk, at 7 pm on Thursday October 3rd for our Transitus. If you can stay after there will be Holy Mass/Adoration starting at 8.

Formation Director's Corner:

"People are often unreasonable and self-centered.
Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.
Give your best anyway.
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway."

Mother Theresa

Prayers for all of the teachers and students returning back to school.

Prayers for our people in formation, as they discern on their Journey, Barbara, Chris, Mike.

Upcoming Professions:

Richard Churray, from Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, Williamsburg, is going to be professed Sunday Oct 6, at 11:00 Mass at Church of Francis de Sales, 176 Lovers Lane, Mathews County, VA. You and your fraternity are welcome to share in the celebration.

Christopher Hill will be professed in January, the exact date is not set yet, but we will have his ceremony in the little chapel at St. Gregory's, there will be a Priest to say his mass, details to follow as we progress along.

Mark Your Calendars:

October 3-Transitus of Our Seraphic Father Francis. Celebration at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, DC. Notification of local celebrations will be sent as they become known.

How I met Howard M.

By
Mike Coleman

Howard was 56 years old and a life-long resident of Norfolk. He was a manual laborer, a food service worker, and a scrapper. Although living in the Gosnold apartments, he was homeless on and off for many years.

A few years ago, I began to volunteer with the Norfolk Catholic Workers, a group of wonderful people focused on Justice and Peace for all of the community. One service they provide is hot breakfasts to the homeless three mornings a week. One of my first days, or maybe my first day I met Howard. As I handed him a cup of hot coffee I dropped it, spilling it over each of us. He stared me down as I bumbled my way through an apology. He let me go on, and on for a few minutes. Then he touched my shoulder and said, "Its okay". I continued apologizing and he continued to say all was good. I kept thinking what am I doing here; I am in the way, not helping, will the group let me come back and try again? However, here was a man who I believed I was helping, and all along, he was helping me. Helping to see others through a different set of eyes, a different perspective, he was teaching me how to forgive, how to accept others, he demonstrated St. Francis teaching of seeing others and turning them into brothers and sisters. Every day since that first clumsy exchange, when I saw Howard I would bring him a cup of coffee. I was very, very careful, each time we passed the coffee cup from my hand to his hand. He would have a mischievous grin bringing out his generous personality.

I would not call Howard a neighborhood or a social friend, or a co-worker type friend; I had called him a brother in Christ.

Howard was called home to the kingdom of God on August 22, 2013 and I will miss seeing him on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Elections for New Officers:

At our November Meeting, the fraternity will vote in new officers. The candidates for the various offices are:

Minister:	Don Schwab
Vice-Minister:	no name put forth
Treasurer:	Stana Piazza
Secretary:	Anne O'Leary
Master of Formation:	Jeanie McLees

St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Retreat:

The Regional Annual Retreat scheduled for the weekend of 11-13 October 2013 at the Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. Filled to the brim. There is always next year! It is a beautiful facility, and has terrific guest speakers at each retreat.

December 6-7 Annual Meeting and National Visitation:

location TBA. The Minister of each fraternity is required to attend or to send a delegate.

Sacred Heart Fraternity - Prayers asked for:

1. Pray for Howard M.
 2. Pray all of us will continue to practice and understand "perfect charity" in our secular lives.
 3. Pray for the survival of our fraternity and for increased interest/vocations
 4. Pray that we can carry on with 3rd Order.
- In Jesus' Name we pray

PRAYER PROGRAM THE SFO SFO-GiFra - MONTHLY INTENTIONS

<u>2013</u>	
<u>September</u>	<u>For the Franciscan Family</u> Bringing the precious gift that the Holy Spirit puts in the hearts of all the brothers and sisters, that they may look with the eyes of Christ, live a life as he lived and understand life as he understood it. Our Father
<u>October</u>	<u>For the Ministers General of the First Order and the TOR,</u> so that their witness of evangelical life will encourage all Franciscans in the world to live with serenity and apostolic zeal their vocation and mission. Our Father

Please let the editor know your wishes for what should be included in the newsletter.
With everyone's efforts, we can have a newsletter that serves the fraternity.

Peace and all good.