



Secular Franciscan  
Order

## MAY – THE MONTH OF MARY



"By pronouncing her "fiat" at the Annunciation and giving her consent to the Incarnation, Mary was already collaborating with the whole work her Son was to accomplish. She is mother wherever he is Savior and head of the Mystical Body" (Catechism of the Catholic Church # 973). "I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be to me according to your Word" (Luke 1:38).

**Our blessed Mother's statue (not shown) visits different homes each month. If you**

**would like to receive her into your home, please call Nita**

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FRANCISCAN SAINTS

- 9 - St. Catharine of Bologna, 2<sup>nd</sup> Order
- 11 - St. Ignatius of Laconi, 1<sup>st</sup> Order
- 16 - St. Margaret of Cortona, 3<sup>rd</sup> Order
- 17 - St. Pascal of Baylon, 1<sup>st</sup> Order
- 18 - St. Felix of Cantalice, 1<sup>st</sup> Order
- 20 - St. Bernardin of Siena, 1<sup>st</sup> Order
- 24 - Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis
- 27 - Our Lady, Mediatrix of Graces
- 28 - St. Mariana of Jesus Parades, 3<sup>rd</sup> Order
- 30 - Blessed Baptista Varamo
- 30 - St. Ferdinand the King, 3<sup>rd</sup> Order

**Happy Birthday!**

**May celebrants:**

**1<sup>st</sup> - Lilia Avendaño**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - Diane Desjardins**

## Quebec - Ontario Area Activities 2019

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, St. Anthony Fraternity Chapter Election**

**June 9, Communion Breakfast – St. Kevin's - Mtl**

**June 13, St. Anthony Feast Day**

## 9 TUESDAY NOVENA IN HONOUR OF ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA

**Starts on Tuesday, April 16 until June 13**

**Each Tuesday 7 pm at St. Kevin's**



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## Prayer Requests

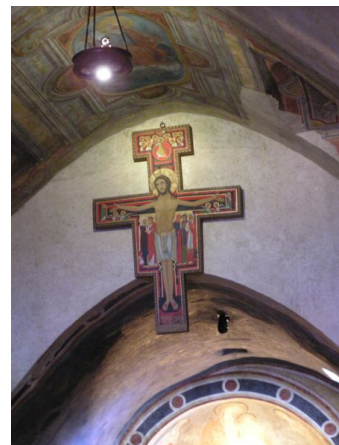


### For healing and good health:

Virginia Acondon, Estella Calip, Joane & Mario Dapice, Esperanza Espiritu, Patricia Jayme, Mike Legault, Julio Mabasa, Lolita Odulio, Booth Sy, Rosendo Villareal, Harry's Brother, Josefa And Wilfredo Garcia, Lourdes Fabico, Persecuted Christians, Souls In Purgatory, Brothers & Sisters In Africa Who Need Food And Other Necessities Of Life

### For the repose of the soul of:

Greg Jayme, Albert Wahed, J-Y Deslauriers



Newsletter: Bernard Bangalan (514) 516-5467 (leave message) email: [bernard.bangalan@gmail.com](mailto:bernard.bangalan@gmail.com)

## CHAPTER THREE – LIFE IN FRATERNITY

20. The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels – local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own moral personality in the Church. These various fraternities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this rule and of the constitutions.

21. On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions.

Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community.

Within themselves the fraternities are structured in different ways according to the norm of the constitutions, according to the various needs of their members and their regions, and under the guidance of their respective council.

24. To foster communion among members, the council should organize regular and frequent meetings of the community as well as meeting with other Franciscan groups, especially with youth groups. It should adopt appropriate means for growth in Franciscan and ecclesiastical life and encourage everyone to a life of fraternity. The communion continues with deceased brothers and sisters through prayer for them.

### PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE

**1) TIME OF PRAYER** -The presence of the Holy Spirit in our Fraternities, and especially during the Chapter, is paramount; it is he who directs our Fraternity. We must therefore invoke him especially during the preparation of the Chapter and also during the Chapter.

#### **2) GOSPEL TEACHINGS:**

Col 3.23-24 – *“Whatever you are doing, put your whole heart into it, as if you were doing it for the Lord and not for men, knowing that there is a master who will give you an inheritance as a reward for your service. Christ is the master you must serve.”*

1 Cor 12.4-6 – *“There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but the same Lord. There are varieties of activity, but in all of them and in everyone the same God is active.”*

Like the first Christian communities, who had but one heart and one soul, all members should willingly place their talents at the service of the Fraternity.

#### **3) TO ACCEPT A FUNCTION ASKED OF US –**

The Holy Spirit is present in a special way during the time of the elections. Those elected should consider it a pleasure as well as a duty to accept a function in a spirit of service. There are three attitudes that definitely are to be avoided.

**A) To consider oneself unworthy.** Such members refuse to accept a function and prefer having others, who they consider more worthy, accept the responsibility. That is not a fraternal attitude. As humans before God, no one is worthy to fill a function. More seriously still, one may use being unworthiness as a pretext in order to avoid being involved and to remain free of any responsibility.

**B) To be afraid of a function.** It is a fear that has to be overcome. There are those timid persons who remained unnoticed, but whose talents are discovered at a chapter. It is understandable that these persons are intimidated when invited to assume a new responsibility. We must remember that the Holy Spirit invoked before and during the Chapter is present to uphold the courage of those who are elected.

**C) Lack of time or illness** - It is possible that someone may not be able to accept a function because of family, work or illness. These could be valid reasons. Still, such a situation must not be taken lightly and should be considered seriously before God. If there is no serious hindrance, one should accept the function. That way the charge is not relayed to a member who may not have the ability for it. To refuse a function without serious reason could be a lack of love for other members and the Fraternity.

**D) To refuse through lack of interest in one's Fraternity.** It would be regrettable that one who is well qualified would refuse a function because of lack of interest in the Fraternity. There is always the commandment of love of neighbour, the obligation of the Rule to which a member is committed by a serious promise. One has to remember that accepting a function, one has an excellent opportunity to serve the fraternity and help members progress in their spiritual life.

**Conclusion** - May the foregoing observations help us to better prepare spiritually the next Chapter of our fraternity. Let us invoke the Holy Spirit so that we may celebrate our Chapter with the same fervour as St. Francis and his brothers did for the Chapter of Mats in 1217. Our Chapter will then may produce the spiritual results expected.

### PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

**Most high, glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of my heart  
and give me, Lord,  
a correct faith, a certain hope,  
a perfect charity, insight and wisdom,  
so that I may carry out Your holy  
and true command.**

St Francis of Assisi