

St Anthony Solent Order Franciscan Secular Fraternity



Solent Franciscan Newsletter

Edition 20. September/October 2022

In this edition

- 1. Welcome.**
- 2. Fraternity News**
- 3. Regional Update**
- 4. Saint for our Time**
- 5. The Rule of the OFS**
- 6. Formation for the Fraternity**
- 7. Queen Elizabeth 11 in Memory**
- 8. Appeal For Burundi**
- 9. Our Visit to The Hill of Crosses**
- 10. Prayers and News**

Welcome

Greetings to you all and any newcomers to our Newsletter. This month as I write we hear of our dear beloved Queen Elizabeth going to her heavenly reward. This means we now have a King. Her son Charles takes on the role our Queen took and will need all our prayers. We have put something together in our newsletter. And also something about our visit to the Baltic States and a very special and Holy place in Lithuania called the Hill of Crosses on John's birthday again more further into the Solent Franciscan.

Fraternity News

Thank you for our last meeting which went very well. Special thanks to Merle for leading our formation on a Better Kind of Politics from Pope Francis's encyclical, 'Fratelli Tutti'. Merle has kindly offered to lead us through the next chapter, 6, too, which is entitled 'Dialogue and Friendship in Society'. Please read. Our next meeting is a Regional one at the Discovery Centre in the Cathedral of our Lady and St John on Saturday 22nd October.

This starts at 10.45am and Mass at 12.15. Its also Merles 60th Anniversary as a member of our Order and she has served us well in holding several very important positions in the OFS. We thank God for her and all she has done for us.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Love

Esme

Regional Update

We have just had our Council meeting via the method of ZOOM video as we all live a long way from each other. Our region is quite large and covers the area from Bournemouth, New Forest, Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey and Sussex not forgetting the Isle of Wight. We have some sad news that our Minister Philomena has had to step down for a bit due to ill health. Which means that Charles our Vice Minister has taken over till she is better. What this does mean is that Esme and John will be at the National Elections Meeting in October as voting representatives. Apart from that things are carrying on as normal as can be. Our next Regional Meeting will be at Portsmouth Cathedral on October 22nd meeting in the Discovery Centre, the day includes MASS at 12.15. The Agenda with Information about the Day will go out shortly. All are welcome and this includes Visitors.

John

Secretary Southern Region OFS

Saint for our Time

St Pio of Pietrelcina

He was born of simple hard working farming people in Southern Italy. He joined the Capuchin Franciscans in San Giovanni Rotondo. He was ordained a priest in 1910 On the 20th September in 1918 he received the 5 wounds of our Lords Passion appeared making him the first stigmatised priest in the history of the church.

He was called to his heavenly reward at the age of 81.

Pope St John Paul canonised him on the 16th June 2002

His feast day is the 23rd September. There are many prayer groups dedicated to him throughout the world.. **St Pio Pray for Us.**

The Rule of the OFS

We looked at Rule 1 in the last newsletter. This month we look at Rule 2.

This reads “The Secular Franciscan Order holds a special place in this family circle. It is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world and open to every group of the faithful. In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the Gospel in the manner of Saint Francis by means of this rule approved by the church.

Question: How is the Franciscan charism most directly reflected in your daily life? In the ongoing life of your fraternity? In your personal feelings for all of the Franciscan family even those scattered throughout the world?

Formation for the Fraternity Our Continuation of the Study of Fratelli Tutti.

Merle continued our formation at the last meeting of the fraternity held at Sacred Heart, Fareham.

A Better Kind of Politics Formation, September 2022 The Process of Formation - 'Going from Gospel to life, and life to Gospel.'

See Rule 4 1. Study and 'listen' to the Word 'in Sacred Scripture, in the Church and in Liturgical activity,' but also by seeking 'to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters.'

Rule 5 Rule 2 "By their profession they (Secular Franciscans) pledge themselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St. Francis by means of this Rule approved by the Church," so we need to study this too. Some study at home in preparation for the meeting is desirable.

2. Reflect and Consider 3. Decide how you will respond 4. Act on that decision

5. Review that course of action or change of attitude

6. Adapt and build by repeating the process. The knowledge and understanding we acquire is at the service of positive change, not an end in itself. (Merle has sent the complete work by PDF to the fraternity.)

Queen Elizabeth In Memory

Sadly on Thursday 8th September our Monarch went to her heavenly reward. She served this Country and the Commonwealth with distinction and love for her people and for all of different faiths. She lived as a true Christian and welcomed our wonderful Holy Father St John Paul 11 when he visited our country. We thank God for her and think and pray for all her family especially Charles now King for all of us.

May She Rest In peace.

Appeals For Burundi



Burundi Children in Need

This is the appeal for help I presented to you all at our September meeting.

As you know, I have recently been approached by our Franciscan brother, Father Serge Bigirimana OFM, for financial assistance to pay the medical bills for the treatment and rehabilitation of two disabled children from his parish. Father Serge is a Franciscan friar working in the parish of Tenga, in Bujumbura, Burundi. We have corresponded regularly over many years. As you know, Burundi is a landlocked country in east Africa, bordering Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is the poorest of all the African nations and Father Serge works tirelessly in providing pastoral care to the poorest of the poor. The two children he is assisting are physically disabled, and I understand that they need medical treatment and rehabilitation to improve their lives and enable them to access schooling and receive an education. As well as being desperately poor, they are further disadvantaged by their disabilities. Education is the key to a better life for these children.



Divin is aged 13 years and the older of the two children. his treatment is more urgent because of his age and the pressing need for him to access education before he reaches adult hood



Prince is just 6 years old but the earlier he can begin his schooling the better his prospects. The cost of the medical treatment and rehabilitation for both children is 1500 Euros. This amount covers the required treatment, hospitalization, shoes, and clothing as well as the rehabilitation sessions that would be required following the medical procedures.

I have a breakdown of these costs provided by the paediatric facility in Bujumbura, which I can forward to you on request. I appreciate that we are living through difficult times, and that money is tight. If you are able to make a donation towards the funds required or are able to advise me of any other potential sources of financial assistance.

I would be most grateful. Any help would make a huge difference to the lives of Divin and Prince. Thank you for considering my request for assistance.

Simon

The Fraternity agreed to make a donation from the collection at our last meeting in September at which £50 was collected. Since then Esme and John have agreed that the joint account we use for non fraternity funds such as Walsingham and other donations be used for this charity instead of our common fund which is for fraternity matters such as the levy to Region We now have £100 in the Account for Burundi and a record is kept in the receipt book. If anyone wishes to contribute please send a cheque made out to John and Esme Vivian by post to 14 Madison Court, Fareham PO16 0QU.

Our Visit to the Hill of Crosses

During our visit to the Baltic States of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia we stopped off at several very interesting places but none like the Hill of Crosses in Lithuania.

This is a place of pilgrimage for Lithuanians as a reminder of their Christian faith and their nation and language. St John Paul visited here as part of the visit he made to the Baltic States and said Mass here. This is a good reminder to us of how the Russian Soviet Union tried to subjugate the Baltic States and other countries like Ukraine.

God wins every time.



Prayers

We have had a few people passing to there Heavenly Rewards. They include from Ladywell Pat Armstrong, Simon Peck's mother Maire and Adeline youngest sister of John.

May they and all who have left this world rest in the peace of our Lord and his Mother with all the Souls in Paradise.

Amen

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.
Amen

St Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle.
Be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we pray, and do thou, O Prince of the
heavenly hosts, by the power of God thrust into hell Satan and
all the evil spirits, who wander through the world seeking the
ruin of souls.
Amen.

NEWS

Next meeting is the Profession Mass of Richard Lynch at Sacred Heart Fareham with Fr Patrick Lonsdale OFM presiding at the ceremony. The Ceremony starts at 12pm midday. Followed by refreshments in the hall afterwards.

We now have a new **National Minister. Sister Kathy Masken** of Epsom OFS was elected at the national election chapter held at the High Leigh conference centre. Please pray for her as she undertakes this very important role.

November Retreat at Park Place is from Friday 25th November 4pm till Sunday 27th 3pm. Book with Clare Muggridge on muggridge@btinternet.com. It costs residential £160 full board, non-residential £85 Saturday only including lunch and supper £45.

Are You Unable to come to meetings of the Fraternity? All donations go towards the levy which is £24 per professed member including those in the Candidate Stage. Donations for charity comes from our special account for pilgrimages and other areas of need. We agreed at our last Council meeting to support the Friars in Burundi which was mentioned at the last fraternity when we donated the collection of £50.

If any of you wish to support this charity or any others we might wish to support, just send a cheque to our Charity account made out in the name of John and Esme Vivian. We will give a report at the next meetings.

These are our Account details.

Secular Franciscans. Sort Code: 30. 96. 26. A/C 40110268