



# Fraternity

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

[www.immaculatasfo.org](http://www.immaculatasfo.org)

## Reflections

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Spiritual Assistant: Father John Mark Klaus, T.O.R.

Fraternity meets third Friday of the Month, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Saint Andrew, Ft Worth, TX 76109.  
Inquirer / Candidate Formation first Friday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Saint Andrew, Ft Worth 76109

Immaculata Fraternity is a local fraternity of the Three Companions Region – [www.lostrescompaneros.org](http://www.lostrescompaneros.org)



IMMACULATA FRATERNITY, OFS

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VOL XIII ISSUE I



Immaculata  
Fraternity OFS

3312 Dryden Road  
Fort Worth, TX 76109-3798

# *Secular Franciscan?*

## **Discerning the call...**

### **What Are the Steps for Discerning a Call?**

Making choices for some can be easy. They choose between a certain set of facts to find a conclusion that best suits their need or situation. But what if the decision is whether God is calling you? How do you know if you are being called to be a Franciscan? As Carol Lieser, OFS said in the December newsletter, "God will help you discern if this call is for you, but you cannot know until you first seek to know!" If you are considering this journey, try following these few steps:

#### **1. Getting Involved with God**

Deep personal prayer is where discernment begins. Nothing fancy! Solitude, Eucharist, the Liturgy of the Church are all cherished places of Franciscan discernment. Join us at our meeting, make a retreat, and read the *Immaculata Newsletter*.

#### **2. Getting involved with oneself**

As you pray and find quiet time before the Eucharist or whenever you take time alone in thought. Keep a journal of your thoughts and prayers. Speak with the Friars at Saint Andrews or begin a dialogue with one of the members of Immaculata by sending an email to: [ofs@standrews.org](mailto:ofs@standrews.org) We will be happy to help you along the way!

#### **3. Getting involved with others**

When in discernment, it is important to be involved with the Church's mission. Get involved with your Church's ministry. Be a Eucharistic Minister, Lectern, work in your food pantry, or other places where you may serve your parish. See how it fits, reflecting on your experience with others like yourself who are discerning, and wait patiently. God does not move the heart without providing the grace to respond.

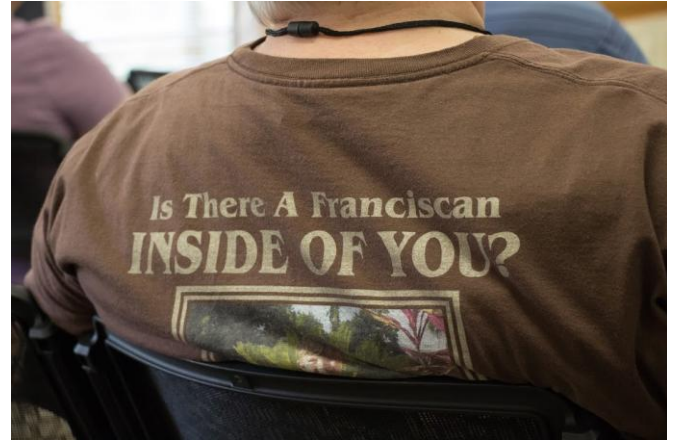
#### **4. Attend a Franciscan Meeting**

Meet with the members of the Fraternity. It is best to attend more than one meeting, formation is ongoing, new and refreshing each month. Our gatherings are times of sharing the gospel and our journeys of going from life to gospel and gospel to life. We are not perfect, but we do have a deep love of Christ and desire to follow in His footsteps. As Saint Francis said, "Lord, help me to live this day, quietly, easily; To lean upon Thy great strength, trustfully, restfully; To wait for the unfolding of Thy will, patiently, serenely; To meet others, peacefully, joyously; To face tomorrow, confidently, courageously."

Next meeting is Friday, January 20 at 7:00pm at Saint Andrews. We hope to see you there!

# *Secular Franciscan*

## *The way of Life*



*Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon*

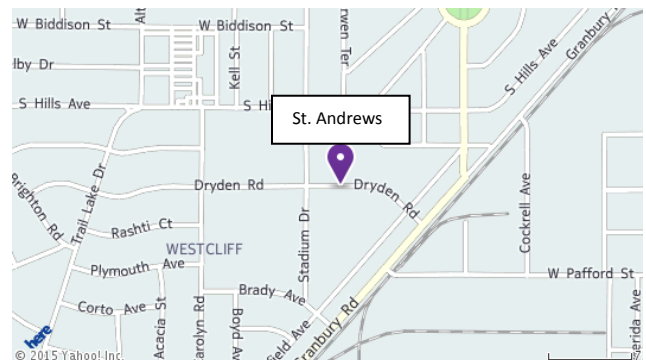
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## **Immaculata Fraternity**

*Come and see!*

Every third Friday, 7:00PM  
January 20  
February 17

St. Andrew  
Catholic Church,  
3314 Dryden Rd  
Fort Worth, TX  
[ofs@standrews.org](mailto:ofs@standrews.org)



# Keeping the Christmas Spirit

By Deborah Pettie



Christmas 2016 is over. The trees, wrapping paper and tinsel have been discarded and the ornaments and lights boxed and put away for next year. Some started the removal the day after Christmas others will wait until Epiphany, the time when the Wise Men found the Christ child laying in the manger. In my family, my sisters and I have a tradition of purposefully not storing everything away. It is our way of keeping a little Christmas close to our heart.

As we traveled and moved across the country, we each received a special handmade holiday item from our sister. This token of love, was given to remind us of her love and to let us know that home was not far away. Seeing it brought such joy to us that it has been placed alongside the normal pictures and knickknacks of our homes throughout the year. Initially, it does look out of place but when we remember its personal story, it brings warmth to the heart.

In his Christmas Eve homily at Saint Peter's, Pope Francis challenged the faithful to remember throughout 2017 that fateful night in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. He stated, "Let us allow the Child in the manger to challenge us, but let us also allow ourselves to be challenged by the children of today's world, who are not lying in a cot caressed with the affection of a mother and father, but rather suffer the squalid "mangers that devour dignity": hiding underground to escape bombardment, on the pavements of a large city, at the bottom of a boat over-laden with immigrants. Let us allow ourselves to be challenged by the children who are not allowed to be born, by those who cry because no one satiates their hunger, by those who do not have toys in their hands, but rather weapons."

Through the birth of Jesus, God brought hope and light to a dark world. This year, hold on to a little bit of your Christmas, even if it only be in spirit, and as we gaze upon its tinsel and light let us remember that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" and placed him in a manger. As we navigate on our journey in 2017 look for blessings in humble spaces and strive to make 2017 a year of hope and joy for all.

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Pray With Faith

**2609** Once committed to conversion, the heart learns to pray in *faith*. Faith is a filial adherence to God beyond what we feel and understand. It is possible because the beloved Son gives us access to the Father. He can ask us to "seek" and to "knock," since he himself is the door and the way

### Move the Meeting to 2:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday?

This new day and time of our gathering has been proposed due to the constraints of travel caused by the abundance of construction on the highways.

At the next meeting of Immaculata Fraternity, January 20, you will be given a ballot with 2 questions:

1. Do you wish to move the day and time that the Fraternity meets?
2. Would you like to move the day and time of the Fraternity meeting to the First Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm?

Moving the day and time to Sunday at 2:00 PM has its pros and cons.

**PRO:** Sunday afternoon has less traffic and the travel time should be quicker for those coming from the DFW area. Also, Saint Andrews has a 12:30 Mass that is compatible to the proposed meeting time, allowing us more opportunities to worship together as a community.

**CON:** Sunday afternoon events with family may be impede upon. Also, if you are a football fan, you may miss a game.

The choice of whether to move the day and time will be made at our next meeting in January. Please be sure to attend and let your voice be heard.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sharon Toups Jan. 7  
Josh Molidor Jan. 19  
Laura Thompson Jan. 25

## PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY

Ann Falgout  
Warren Falgout  
Carol Lieser  
Charles Lieser  
Deborah Pettie

January 12, 2003

**Please continue to pray for  
our sick:**

*God is our refuge and our strength, an ever  
present help in distress.*

*The Lord of hosts is with us; our  
stronghold is the God of Jacob. (Ps. 46)*

## Fraternity Calendar

- Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary
- Jan. 3 Holy Name of Jesus
- Jan. 4 Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Jan. 5 Bl. Ortolana di Fiumi, I Order  
St. John Neumann
- Jan. 6 Epiphany
- Jan. 7 Bl. Angela of Foligno, Religious, III Order
- Jan. 8 Our Lad of Prompt Succor
- Jan. 9 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- Jan. 12 St. Bernard of Corleone, Religious, I Order
- Jan. 20 Immaculata Fraternity Meeting**
- Jan. 23 St. Marianne Cope, OSF, Virgin
- Jan. 24 St. Francis de Sales, III Order, Doctor,  
founder
- Jan. 25 Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle
- Jan. 28 St. Thomas Aquinas
- Jan. 31 St. John Bosco, Priest III Order, founder

Roe v. Wade decision Jan.  
22, 1973



**Pray the Rosary  
to End Abortion**

For those of you reading this addition of *Fraternity Reflections* on our webpage or through Facebook, and feel called to the Franciscan way, please contact us [standrewcc.org/owa](http://standrewcc.org/owa), and we'll be glad to direct you in the best possible way, rather it be in the Order of Secular Franciscans or in a Franciscan Religious Vocation. We'd also invite you to come to the Immaculata Fraternity meetings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM, at Saint Andrew Catholic Church, 3314 Dryden Rd. Fort Worth, TX. *Please Note: In discerning a life with us, you must be a member of the Catholic Church in good standing and in a spirit of unity.*

*We look forward to meeting you!*