



Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

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Fraternity Reflections



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Fraternity meets first Sunday of the Month, 2:00pm to 4:00pm, Good Shepherd, 1000 Tinker Rd., Colleyville, Texas 76034
Inquirer/Candidate Formation Second Saturday of the month, 11:00am to 12:30pm, Good Shepherd, Colleyville, TX

Immaculata Fraternity is a local fraternity of the Three Companions Region – www.lostrescompaneros.org

IMMACULATA FRATERNITY, OFS

July, 2018

VOL IX ISSUE VII



Immaculata
Fraternity **OFS**

1000 Tinker Rd
Colleyville, Texas 76034

FRATERNITY NEWS

Guest Speaker Stephen Hauck



Father Stephen Francis Hauck
Ordained May 20, 2017, Fort Worth Dioceses
Associate Pastor, St. Michael Catholic Church, Bedford, TX

"I already find being a priest to be so rewarding. My role and roles here at the parish are still very much in formation, so I do not know for sure exactly what I will be doing."

Sunday, June 3, Immaculata Fraternity welcomed Father Stephen Hauck to Good Shepherd as our guest speaker. He shared with us the joys and surprises of his first year as a priest for the Diocese of Fort Worth. While relaying his stories he continued with a single theme. As we go through our life's journey, we need to take time to pause and speak with God in His language. God's language is silence. Stephen allocated that it was during adoration, being in the presence of God in the quiet of the Oratory at Saint Maria Goretti, that he heard God's call to follow Him. He then thanked us for our prayers for him while he was away studying at seminary. "God does not send us alone on His missions," he said, explaining how he often felt our prayers when facing obstacles.

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Do you feel that God is calling you to follow Him as a Secular Franciscan?

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***Come and see!***

## *Secular Franciscan The way of Life*



Immaculata Fraternity meets the [First Sunday](#) of every month at 2:00pm in the Saint Francis/Saint Clare room at Good Shepherd in Colleyville. We welcome you to come and join us for prayer, formation and fellowship!

### **Immaculata Fraternity**

*Come and see!*

Every first Sunday, 2:00PM

**July 1 (Movie!)  
August 5  
Sept 2**

Good Shepherd Catholic Community  
1000 Tinker Rd.  
Colleyville, TX 76034



# Freedom: How do we define it?

By: Carol Lieser

July, 2018

Dear Brother and Sisters,

Much pomp and circumstance occur this month as we commemorate the Fourth of July. Our ability to govern ourselves, gained from losing the control of Great Britain in 1776, allows us freedom to be Americans.

We place much weight on our independence and on the idea of freedom, often determined to mean our ability to be in charge of ourselves and make our own decisions. *We can do* what we want, when we want, the way we want. but *should* we? Is there some guidance that helps us decide what is the best choice?

As Catholics and Secular Franciscans, we certainly defend the idea of freedom. We know that we are able to make choices, freely. Of course, God allows us to do this for He desires us to choose Him freely. St. Francis was quite aware of freedom and his life reveals a mature growth of understanding in what freedom truly means. As he went from young party going, rich boy, to soldier, to troubadour for God, we recognize the development of his spirituality and love and service to the Church. As he fully surrendered His will to the will of God, he received much joy.

Secular Franciscans are faced with making choices daily. We know our place is in the world. We realize our spirituality is not just about kissing lepers and talking to wolves. We still have to go to work, pay our bills, shop, care for our children and many other details of our "ordinary lives." We can choose not to attend to these details and soon our lives are in disarray; we can avoid the nudging guidance of the Holy Spirit; forsake the Sacraments, and avoid mass attendance. We can decide we are too busy to pray; too busy to take time to be with others, and too busy to get together with our Franciscan fraternity members. All of these are possible choices. We are blessed with the gift of natural and

### Freedom and Responsibility

**1731** Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude.

**1733** The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to "the slavery of sin."<sup>28</sup>

divine law that allows us to know what choices we should make. We always have the Holy Spirit guiding our consciences.

The Catholic Catechism (1731) describes freedom as "power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, so to perform actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God". We know we are called to be obedient to the law of our country; we are also called to an even greater obedience: obedience to the Gospel.

Brother and Sister Franciscans, recognize that your greatest freedom exists only through Christ. We are called to perfection through Him. Let us pray together that we enjoy the national holiday on July 4 among families and friends. We pray for greater understanding of what freedom means and how God intends us to be fully free. I pray that we increase our trust that God loves us and that we, Secular Franciscans, are given the grace to thank and bless Him by our obedient actions. Amen. St Francis of Assisi, pray for us. Most Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us. Peace and All Good,

Carol Lieser



# A Letter to George Washington

*From: John Carroll, First Catholic Bishop of the United States of America and Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Daniel Carroll, Thomas FitzSimons, and Dominick Lynch on behalf of the Roman Catholic laity*

March 15, 1790

“We have been long impatient to testify our joy and unbounded confidence, on your being called, by an unanimous vote, to the first station of a country, in which that unanimity could not have been obtained without the previous merit of unexampled services, of eminent wisdom, and unblemished virtue. Our congratulations have not reached you sooner, because our scattered situation prevented the communication and the collecting of those sentiments, which warmed every breast: But the delay has furnished us with the opportunity, not merely of presaging the happiness to be expected under your administration, but of bearing testimony to that which we experience already. It is your peculiar talent, in war and in peace, to afford security to those, who commit their protection into your hands. In war, you shield them from the ravages of armed hostility: in peace you establish public tranquillity by the justice and moderation, not less than by the vigour of your government. By example as well as by vigilance, you extend the influence of laws on the manners of our fellow citizens you encourage respect for religion, and inculcate, by words and actions, that principle, on which the welfare of nations so much depends, that a superintending Providence governs the events of the world, and watches over the conduct of men. Your exalted maxims and unwearied attention to the moral and physical improvement of our country have produced already the happiest effects. Under your administration, America is animated with zeal for the attainment and encouragement of useful literature; She improves her agriculture, extends her commerce, and acquires with foreign nations a dignity, unknown to her before. From these happy events, in which none can feel a warmer interest than ourselves, we derive additional pleasure by recollecting, that you, Sir, have been the principal instrument to effect so rapid a change in our political situation. This prospect of national prosperity is peculiarly pleasing to us on another account; because whilst our country preserves her freedom and independence, we shall have a well founded title to claim from her justice equal rights of citizenship, as the price of our blood spilt under your eyes, and of our common exertions for her defence, under your auspicious conduct, rights rendered more dear to us by the remembrance of former hardships. When we pray for the preservation of them, where they have been granted; and expect the full extension of them from the justice of those States, which still restrict them; when we solicit the protection of Heaven over our common country: we neither omit nor can omit recommending your preservation to the singular care of divine providence; because we conceive that no human means are so available to promote the welfare of the united States, as the prolongation of your health and life, in which are included the energy of your example, the wisdom of your counsels, and the persuasive eloquence of your virtues”

# George Washington's Letter to the Catholics

United States of America [New York]  
March 15, 1790

Gentlemen,

While I now receive with much satisfaction your congratulations on my being called, by an unanimous vote, to the first station in my Country; I cannot but duly notice your politeness in offering an apology for the unavoidable delay. As that delay has given you an opportunity of realizing, instead of anticipating, the benefits of the general Government; you will do me the justice to believe, that your testimony of the increase of the public prosperity, enhances the pleasure which I should otherwise have experienced from your affectionate address. I feel that my conduct, in war and in peace, has met with more general approbation than could reasonably have been expected: and I find myself disposed to consider that fortunate circumstance, in a great degree, resulting from the able support and extraordinary candour of my fellow-citizens of all denominations.

The prospect of national prosperity now before us is truly animating, and ought to excite the exertions of all good men to establish and secure the happiness of their Country, in the permanent duration of its Freedom and Independence. America, under the smiles of a Divine Providence—and the protection of a good Government—and the cultivation of manners, morals and piety, cannot fail of attaining an uncommon degree of eminence, in literature, commerce, agriculture, improvements at home and respectability abroad. As mankind become more liberal they will be more apt to allow, that all those who conduct themselves as worthy members of the Community are equally entitled to the protection of civil Government. I hope ever to see America among the foremost nations in examples of justice and liberality. And I presume that your fellow-citizens will not forget the patriotic part which you took in the accomplishment of their Revolution, and the establishment of their Government: or the important assistance which they received from a nation in which the Roman Catholic faith is professed. I thank you, Gentlemen, for your kind concern for me. While my life and my health shall continue, in whatever situation I may be, it shall be my constant endeavour to justify the favourable sentiments which you are pleased to express of my conduct. And may the members of your Society in America, animated alone by the pure spirit of Christianity, and still conducting themselves as the faithful subjects of our free Government, enjoy every temporal and spiritual felicity.

G. Washington

*“From George Washington to Roman Catholics in America, c.15 March 1790,” Founders Online, National Archives, last modified June 13, 2018, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-05-02-0193>. [Original source: *The Papers of George Washington, Presidential Series, vol. 5, 16 January 1790–30 June 1790*, ed. Dorothy Twohig, Mark A. Mastromarino, and Jack D. Warren. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1996, pp. 299–301.]*



# Pope Francis'

## MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS

### JULY

#### Evangelization – Priests and their Pastoral Ministry

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.



We also pray for the health and safety of all our families, friends, Fraternity members, colleagues and those in need of prayer around the world. O Mother of Sorrows, accept this consecration. Strengthen our hopeful hearts, that as partakers of Christ's sufferings we may also share in his comfort now and for evermore.



## Franciscan Quote of the Day

**“...they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters (SFO Rule #12).**

None of us evades this task of being free. We try to free ourselves of structures that are controlling and have little or no other purpose. We free ourselves of opinions that label people, calling them evil or other names. Franciscans cannot tolerate anything that causes separation among people. Even when we passionately disagree, we try to do it in such a way that relationships are not broken (p.219 The Franciscan Journey, Lester Bach, OFM Cap, 2010).

## Fraternity Happenings

### Down the Road!

**July 1 Fraternity Meeting**  
*(Movie, Maximilian!)*

**Aug. 5 Fraternity Meeting**

**Sept. 2 Fraternity Meeting**

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### July Feast Days

1. Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, *Sunday*
3. Thomas the Apostle, *Feast*
4. Independence Day (USA), *Opt. Mem.*
5. Anthony Mary of Zaccaria; Elizabeth of Portugal, *Opt. Mem.*
6. Maria Goretti, *Opt. Mem.*
8. Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, *Sunday*
9. Augustine Zhao Rong and companions, *Opt. Mem.*
11. Benedict, *Memorial*
13. Henry, *Opt. Mem.*
14. St. Kateri Tekakwitha (USA), *Memorial*
15. Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, *Sunday*
16. Our Lady of Mount Carmel, *Opt. Mem.*
18. Camillus de Lellis (USA), *Opt. Mem.*
20. Apollinaris, *Opt. Mem.*
21. Lawrence of Brindisi, *Opt. Mem.*
22. Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, *Sunday*
23. Bridget, *Opt. Mem.*
24. Sharbel (Charbel) Makhloof, *Opt. Mem.*
25. James, *Feast*
26. Joachim and Anne, *Memorial*
29. Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, *Sunday*
30. Peter Chrysologus, *Opt. Mem.*
31. Ignatius of Loyola, *Memorial*

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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 at: [secularfranciscans@gsc.net](mailto:secularfranciscans@gsc.net) 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 *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!*

## IMMACULATA PRESENTS:

# *Maximilian The Saint of Auschwitz*



Born in Poland in 1894, the son of poor, devout Catholics, Saint Maximilian Kolbe experienced many interior trials as a young man. However, the Blessed Virgin Mary sustained him in these difficulties by appearing to him in a vision. She offered him a crown of purity or a crown of martyrdom. He chose both. This experience instilled in him a deep and abiding love for Our Lady.

Maximilian entered the Franciscan order in 1907. At this time, he was especially drawn to explore the Blessed Mother's role in the history of salvation. He saw her as God's agent in confounding the darkness, which was gathering in opposition to the Church. Saint Maximilian was a visionary who organized the "Knights of the Immaculata." This organization published a magazine that was read throughout Poland. Saint Maximilian also actively promoted consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In 1941, he was arrested by the Gestapo for his tireless work in Poland against the Nazi forces. He was sent to the infamous death camp of Auschwitz, where he was used as slave labor. There, he was also frequently beaten and subject to humiliations. That summer, he offered his life up for another prisoner, a married man who was being condemned to death by starvation. In this he fulfilled the words of Christ: "Greater love than this has no man, that he give up his life for his friend." Interestingly, shortly after this date in 1941, Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope John Paul II, felt a strong call to the priesthood, and entered the seminary clandestinely in occupied Poland. Forty one years after that heroic act, Saint John Paul II canonized Saint Maximilian. He called him "the saint of our difficult century" and a "Martyr of Charity."

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Saint Maximilian Kolbe is the patron saint of families, pro-life organizations, prisoners, journalists and those in media communications, people suffering from eating disorders, and those addicted to drugs.

## SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2018

*You bring the lawn chair, we'll bring the popcorn!*