



THE CORD

A Newsletter From St. Anthony's Guild

Dear Friend of St. Anthony,

For many of us, Thanksgiving and Christmas offer a break from the rapid pace of everyday life, a sense of love and joy, and the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends.

For many of us, the time around the holidays brings a sense of loss, painful memories, and grief for what was or what might have been or what is not. Holidays can provide us with a stressful combination of these emotions.

Though things will likely be different this year, we should take time to celebrate the end of year holidays as best we can to spread positivity during this pandemic. Remember, we all must comply with social distancing guidelines for the sake of everyone's health. Social distancing may prevent you from partaking in some family activities and traditions that occur when everyone can physically get together.

Try and think back on the meaning behind Thanksgiving and Christmas and put the focus not on what you can't do, but what you can do and appreciate the little things - time with family over the holidays virtual or otherwise, will be all the more precious than usual.

Peace,

Fr. David Convertino, OFM
Executive Director of St. Anthony's Guild

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Did You Know?

Franciscans are one of the most popular and beloved orders among Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Because of St. Francis' calling to care for creation and do works of mercy for the poor and sick, people are fascinated by his history and original vision as well as the movements that have since developed to promote a lifestyle of holiness and evangelization. God Bless St. Francis!



Franciscan Saints You Should Know About

St. Francis famously rebuilt the crumbling church of San Damiano after Jesus appeared to him, and he rebuilt it with his own hands. He went on to preach a devout adherence to Christ, by way of simplicity, love, and action.

St. Francis attracted many followers and eventually founded The Franciscan order. There are many great saints, besides St. Francis, that have come from the Franciscan order. Here are 8 Franciscan Saints you should know about:

Saint Lawrence of Brindisi – The gifted scholar who spoke dozens of languages. His influential writings were a significant influence in the Counter-Reformation. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Saint John XXIII.

Saint Benedict The Moor – The son of former slaves, taken from Africa, was ridiculed for his skin color, but he accepted the insults with patience and dignity. He was known to be very generous to the poor and was known as a healer.

He was sought out for his deep understanding of theology and Scripture. Late in his life, despite having gained rank and reputation, he chose kitchen duty as his daily work, as he enjoyed cooking for others.

Saint Bonaventure – He was considered one of the greatest medieval theologians and philosophers. His writings are a treasure of Church Theology. He was made a Doctor of the Church and is known as the Seraphic Doctor.

Saint Clare of Assisi – She was one of St. Francis' first followers. After hearing Francis preach, she cut off all her hair and traded her luxurious gowns for simple robes and a veil. Her rich and powerful father wanted to marry her off to another wealthy family, but she refused, saying Christ was her only spouse. She is the foundress of the female counterpart to the Franciscans, the Poor Clares.

Saint Thomas More – He famously confronted King Henry VIII about the King's divorce and was a member of the Third Order of the Franciscans. He is the patron saint of lawyers and politicians.

Saint Bernardino of Siena – He was a great preacher and reformer. His efforts to address the evils of the day and revive piety on the Italian peninsula during the 15th century earned him the name "The Apostle of Italy." He is known as the patron saint of marketers.



Saint Roch – was born into a wealthy family, but he gave his inheritance to the poor and joined the Franciscans caring for the plague victims. He was born with a reddish cross birthmark on his chest that grew proportionately with him as he aged. He was falsely accused of being a spy and was imprisoned and died in jail. He is known as the patron saint of dogs and the falsely accused.

Saint John of Capistrano – He was a famous preacher and theologian, and he earned the nickname “the Soldier Saint” when in 1456, at the age of 70, he wore armor over his Franciscan robes. He was very frail, yet he led his contingent into battle against the invading Turkish forces at the Siege of Belgrade.

Test Your Knowledge of Saint Anthony of Padua

By Fr. Jack Wintz, OFM

What was the sickness that ended St. Anthony's mission to Morocco?

There is no clear answer to that question. We know that Anthony seemed challenged by the story of the Franciscan martyrs and experienced a call to follow what he believed was the Lord's call to proclaim the Gospel. What did he experience? Whether a physical sickness or a psychological one, we will never know. We can only imagine that whatever happened, it must have been disappointing and probably very humbling. Recovering from this failure might have led Anthony to accept his own weakness and rely on God's power. **St. Paul says, "In weakness, God's power is brought to perfection." Have you ever experienced that in your life?**

Did St. Anthony ever meet St. Francis?

In the early days of the Order, Franciscans gathered together to discuss their mission and life. These gatherings were called "Chapters of Mats" because the vast numbers of friars had to sleep on mats. History recounts that both Anthony and Francis were at the Pentecost Chapter, and it is presumed that it was there that St. Francis met with St. Anthony.

Who have you met that changed your opinions about life?

In Transitus



Charles Finnegan, OFM, 88, a professed Franciscan friar for 67 years and a priest for 62, died on June 9 at St. Catherine of Siena Nursing Home, where he had lived since last year. Charles was born July 9, 1931, in New York City to Thomas and Frances (née Rogers) and was baptized, Thomas. He was received into the Order of Friars Minor at the Province's novitiate in Paterson, New Jersey, in 1951 and, on August 12, 1952 professed his first vows as a Franciscan. Charles studied philosophy and theology in Butler and Washington, D.C. Charles professed his final vows as a Franciscan on August 16, 1955 at Christ the King Seminary in Allegany, New York, before Donald Hoag, OFM. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Amleto Cicognani on April 25, 1958, at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C.

In 2013, Charles retired to St. Anthony Friary in Butler and a few months later was transferred to Holy Name Friary in Ringwood, New Jersey, the Province's skilled nursing facility. In March 2019, when Holy Name Friary was closed, he was transferred to St. Catherine of Siena Nursing Home on the campus of Caldwell University. Charles is survived by his sister, Eleanor Colgan of Howell, New Jersey, and a brother, Richard Finnegan of Amity Harbor, New York, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Pomegranate & Thyme Goat Cheese Log

This recipe is a simple appetizer that holds symbolism for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the Advent season. It is a delicious flavor combination, with the tangy sweetness of the pomegranates contrasting to the tartness of the goat cheese. Just top your favorite cracker and enjoy it. The pomegranate's availability during the month around Christmas makes it an excellent food for the Advent and Christmas season.

Ingredients

- 4 oz. goat cheese log
- fresh thyme sprigs
- 1/2 cup of pomegranate arils
- honey

Instructions

Allow the goat cheese to sit at room temperature for about 15 minutes to soften. Add pomegranate arils to top and sides - gently pressing in to hold. Strip the thyme leaves from the stem. Sprinkle thyme leaves over the cheese log. Drizzle with honey. Serve with crackers.



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