



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Ecumenical
Apostolate
p. 6
- Our Lady of
the Bowed
Head p. 9

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Minister's Message

Peace and good!

On the month of May to commemorate the month of the Holy Virgin Mary, I'd like to bring our attention to the Mexican Phoenix, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

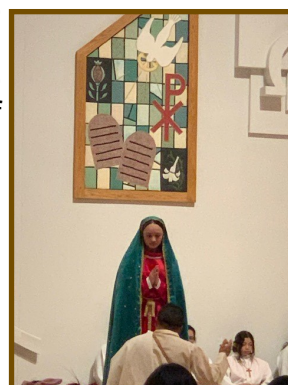
Last December, I attended Mass for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (see pictures). It was an event with a theatrical presentation, music and a packed church at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

It really makes one take a step back and wonder the power of the Holy Virgin Mary. In 1531 the Virgin Mary miraculously imprinted her likeness on the cape of Juan Diego and it changed history. The conquistadors might have lived separate from the indigenous Mexican tribes, much like the Native Americans lived on reservations. However, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who resembled the Aztec god of the earth, was so powerful that it united the religions of the Spanish conquistadors and the indigenous people. Their cultures were infused into the modern day Mexican culture.

In 1999, Our Lady of Guadalupe was proclaimed patron saint of the Americas by the Pope. In 2002, Juan Diego was canonized in Mexico by Pope John Paul II.

We have real concerns about today's youth embracing Catholicism. We are also challenged by dwindling attendance at Mass and a slow return to the church after the pandemic. In stark contrast, let us ponder what it is about a sixteenth century Mexican painting of the Virgin Mary that reignited religious devotion. We are a people filled with hope and I wonder what will be our modern day equivalent of the Mexican Phoenix.

Josh





Organization

Tau Fraternity
P.O. Box 711152
Oak Hill, VA 20171

Meetings every 1st Sunday at:
St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St., Room 205
Herndon, VA 20170

Pace e Bene

The Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order was canonically established on June 21, 1992. The Fraternity is affiliated with the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tau Fraternity is in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Tau Fraternity Council currently includes the following officers:

- Minister—Josh Goldberg, OFS
- Vice Minister—Liz Welborn, OFS
- Formation Director—Bill Richey, OFS
- Secretary—Barbara Slivers, OFS
- Treasurer—Joe Boyle, OFS
- Councilor—Kimberley Heatherington, OFS



COMMITTEES

If you are interested in participating actively in one of our Committees, take a moment to chat with the chair:

Hospitality Committee—Veronica O'Donnell, OFS
Interfaith/Ecumenical Committee—Kimberley Heatherington, OFS
Infirmary Committee—Sharon Goldberg, OFS
Multicultural Committee—Sally White, OFS
Recruitment Committee—Vacant
Technology Committee—John Ata, OFS



Recap of Last Gathering

April 2, 2023

OPENING PRAYER:

Lisa Jaeger, OFS offered a prayer:

For a friend, by St. Augustine

O sweet Lord Jesus, give him
a heart to love you,
a will to choose you,
a memory to remember you,
a mind to think of you,
a soul which will always be united to
you.
And may you, the God of love and mercy,
love him forever. Amen

CEREMONY OF INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING:

Jennifer Raimo was elevated to Inquirer. Prayers were offered from pp. 9-10 of the *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*. Jen attended St. Francis College in Loretto, PA and then graduated from West Chester University with a major in criminal justice and a minor in Spanish. After two years working as a corrections officer, she went to law school and graduated from George Mason University. Since then, she has dedicated her career and much of her personal life to helping people in their time of need. Jen's experience working with inmates each day and her unshakeable faith are the 'secret' behind Jen's patience and stamina as she walks with her clients through the judicial system."

Welcome new Inquirer Jen Raimo!

PRESENTATION:

Clari Claus, OFS gave a presentation on St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Highlights of the presentation are as follows.

- Franciscans may identify with St. Elizabeth
- She had many successes and many sufferings
- She was a wife, mother, teacher, prolific writer, saint
- She was born in Manhattan on 28 August, 1774
- Her mother died when she was three years old
- Her father was a man of science, a physician, and an Episcopalian
- Catholicism was a fledgling religion in the US then
- Elizabeth and sisters were sent to live with an aunt and uncle when their father remarried
- She sought God after a sister died and found him in nature
- Elizabeth had suicidal thoughts during the time of tension and strife within her father's household
- She married William Seton at age 19 and had four children
- Her husband died in 1803, leaving her destitute.
- Friends peaked her interest in Catholicism and introduced her to Bishop John Carroll
- She had a deep prayer life and worried about the souls of her children
- She founded the first US women's religious order, the Sisters of Charity
- Elizabeth died of TB on 4 January 1821
- She was canonized on 14 September 1975
- Visit [History - National Shrine Grotto \(nsgrotto.org\)](https://nsgrotto.org) for more information

Recap Cont'd

Ongoing Formation

Bill Richey, OFS asked six members to offer their prepared thoughts on our reading from *Called to Build a More Fraternal and Evangelical World* by Fr. Benet Fonck, Article 10, pages 62-69, which begins: "United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully perform the duties proper to their various circumstances in life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions." Theme: Discovering the will of God in life's circumstance.

- Valerye Milleson, OFS, who previously gifted this book to all Tau members, explained that after reading it for the last three years, she takes comfort in Jesus being okay with being obedient to the Father, but also that he asked if the cup could pass from him. She shared that she feels humility means to be gentle and embrace differences with as much love as possible.
- Vera Stewart, OFS shared that following Christ's persecution means a lot to her during difficulties and dry periods. She keeps praying, striving for holy obedience & perfect joy.
- Sharon Goldberg, OFS was sparked by the spiritual maturity apparent throughout the reading. She noted from p. 62, "In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus" & that she's brought to the vertical & horizontal dimensions of the cross. Horizontal = earthly. Vertical = divine. Suffering & joy are on the horizontal level. Sharon believes the Incarnation is most important. She also believes, "A tsunami, Hitler, and me are all the same."
- Gil Donahue, OFS focused on Isaiah 52:13-53:12, pp. 63-64, explaining Jews did not expect a Messiah of great humility; because of Jesus, we can understand passages in a different way.
- Joe Boyle, OFS reflected on the term redemptive obedience, which led him back to redemptive suffering. Jesus trusted & placed himself in his Father's hands, which was important to Joe. Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer is used by Joe to also trust & place himself in our Lord's hands. Joe shared that his mission is a work in progress - penance and daily conversion .
- Vicki Shanholtz, OFS reflected on all 10 articles within the reading assignment, asking herself: Am I letting Jesus micromanage my life? If yes, is my life better? Do I allow myself quiet companionship with Jesus? Keeping a Christ's mind will refine me as silver. How can I accept & internalize God's suffering? Allow myself to feel rejection & pain. We should prepare ourselves for being martyrs. Am I practicing extreme trust? Choose faith or fear, but not both. Losing control with Jesus is a good thing! Be conscious.

Bill Richey read Vatican II Documents: LG 41F-G, p. 68, and reminded us of contemporary political prisoners. He asked that we pray for two: Alexi Navalny, the Russian opposition leader, and Nicaraguan Bp. Rolando Alvarez, who was rounded up with others to be deported in February, but refused to board the plane for Dulles, VA, instead giving thanks to the Blessed Virgin.

Kelly Passero then presented a short summary and her thoughts after attending the OFS 12th *Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates – Embracing the Gospel Life: Conversion, Commitment, and Belonging* March 11th in Washington, DC. The presenter was Fr. Russel Murray. Kelly explained that embracing the gospel is the way of conversion through Christ, witnessing the kingdom is a commitment to ourselves to have the mind of Christ, & renewing the church is done through deepening our belonging to Christ. Kelly noted that Fr. Murray works with the Poor Clares. She was also very happy to spend time with the others, including John (Gio) Tagnes!

Bill Richey noted same book will be used for our May general formation meeting assignment, Article 9, pp. 55-61. Theme: Mary as our mother and model.

APOSTOLATES

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE

Thanks to our Brothers and Sisters who support the apostolate at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. The next food delivery is **Saturday, June 10th**, please contact Veronica O'Donnell, OFS or Joe Boyle, OFS.

Pace e bene!

POOR CLARES OF NEW JERSEY

Tau Fraternity supports the Monastery of St. Clare in Chesterfield, NJ with a biannual monetary donation. The monastery is home to Sister, Karen Stapleton, OSC, who began her Franciscan journey with Tau Fraternity. The main work of the Poor Clares of NJ is to provide Altar Bread to parishes in the diocese of Trenton.

For more information, or to submit a prayer intention to the Poor Clares, see [The Poor Clares of New Jersey — Joyfully Embracing the Gospel Way of Life .\(poorclaresnewjersey.com\)](http://www.poorclaresnewjersey.com)

Watch their YouTube video [A Quiet Joy: New Jersey's Monastery of Saint Clare](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

PRAYER SHAWL APOSTOLATE

Tau Fraternity provides handmade prayer shawls to individuals in the Diocese of Arlington. Currently, shawls are being provided to pregnant women who are participating in the Gabriel Project. For more information, please contact Sharon Goldberg, OFS.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Help to feed the hungry. Joe Boyle, OFS volunteered to shop and deliver food to the St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter at St. Timothy Catholic Church. Food donations may be dropped off prior to the Tau Gathering in the stairwell on the right at St. Joseph School. Tau Fraternity will continue to also give a monetary donation to the pantry. You can also provide a monetary donation to the Treasurer, Joe Boyle, OFS..

Thank you!

For more, info, see <https://sttimothyparish.org/outreach-and-ministries/st-vincent-de-paul/>

FRANCISCAN MISSION SERVICE

Tau Fraternity provides a biannual monetary donation to Franciscan Mission Service. The organization prepares and supports lay Catholics for mission service opportunities around the globe.

For more information, see [Home | Franciscan Mission Service](#)

FAITH without WORKS is dead

James 2:17

ECUMENICAL APOSTOLATE WITH FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HERNDON

Sally White, OFS

The students and teachers of the English Language Apostolate with the First Baptist Church of Herndon were treated to a surprise party on April 4. The Refreshment Committee set out cookies, sandwiches and other tasty treats. Enrollment is now at 48 students with another country represented: Russia. This is in addition to Morocco, Sudan, Iran, Nigeria, Columbia, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia and Venezuela. During the summer break the students already enrolled will participate in a Summer Camp to continue their language skills prior to Fall Semester enrollment.

Volunteers are still needed for the Refreshment Committee for a potential end of semester party. If you are interested in teaching or being a teacher's assistant we still need you because the classes are growing! Contact Sally White OFS at sallywhite1945@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer. We always need more help.





YOUTH MINISTRY APOSTOLATE

The St. Joseph Youth Ministry for high school students recently welcomed 8th graders who have been confirmed. At the session on April 16th, the teens and volunteers had a trick shot relay after dinner and before joining the Festival of Praise. Ask Josh Goldberg, OFS or Vera Stewart, OFS about the relay race. The Youth Ministry has an opening for one volunteer. If you are Virtus trained and would like to help with the high school group on Sunday evenings, let Josh or Vera know.

ARE WE FRANCISCAN MODERATES?

Something for a Franciscan to discern in our current time concerning all injustices. Are we Franciscan moderates?

"I must make two honest confessions to you, my Christian and Jewish brothers. First, I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

From: Letter From a Birmingham Jail by Martin Luther King, Jr

Shared by Bill Bouffard, OFS

Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference

Generations advocating together for creation and the excluded,
"for we know that things can change"
(Laudato Si' par. 13)

..... ❖

**IN PERSON: OCTOBER 13-16, 2023
WASHINGTON, DC**

VIRTUAL OPTION: OCTOBER 14, 2023

FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK
FRANCISCAN JUSTICE CIRCLES
Association of FRANCISCAN Colleges and Universities

For more information about the Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference, including the schedule and registration information, see [Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference - Franciscan Action Network](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

HEAR US, LORD!

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers:

For physical and spiritual healing of Gail Dowling; Sylvia Capurso; Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White and her husband Gary; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan; and Irene Naveau. For the patients and Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. For the people affected by Coronavirus and their caregivers. For the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic and its patients. For all peoples who suffer persecution. For the country of Myanmar and its citizens. For the victims of natural disasters. For refugees and migrant workers. For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Please send prayer requests to Josh Goldberg, OFS.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God..

Philippians 4:6,7



REFLECTIONS

Poetry, Devotion, and Prayer



Francis, the Virgin Mary, and Secular Franciscans

Troubadour, bon vivant, man about town,
Young Francis sought to live his parents' dreams.
After hearing Our Lord's voice in San Damiano,
He returned fancy dress to his earthly father
And embraced poverty, begging, life on the street. The little
poor man became a "fool" for Christ.

"Herald of the great King," Francis also became
A faithful "Knight of the great Queen."
From Jesus, his brother, Francis sought guidance, Energy
and direction. Mary, his mother,
Provided comfort, sympathy and support.
Under their direction, he pursued Lady Poverty,
And doing so brought others to the faith.

The Blessed Virgin oversaw Francis' household, Showering
him with many graces,
Which he shared with his brothers.
Francis and his brothers' deep devotion to Our Lady Pre-
pared the way for John Duns Scotus
To theologize about the Immaculate Conception, Which a
later Pope would enshrine in our faith.

During the tumult of last century,
St. Maximilian Kolbe further strengthened
And promoted devotion to Our Lady.
We Secular Franciscans, patterning our lives on Francis and
Clare, keeping close to Christ,
Also benefit from Our Lady's graces.
Mary, remind us to pass those graces on to others we meet.
May your graces bring us love, joy, hope and peace. Amen

Gil Donahue, OFS 12 April 2023

“ If you ever feel dis-
tressed during your day —
call upon our Lady — just
say this simple prayer:
'Mary, Mother of Jesus,
please be a mother to me
now.' I must admit — this
prayer has never failed
me. ”

--Blessed Mother Theresa

The title of Mother of the Church has been bestowed on the Blessed Virgin Mary because she gave birth to Christ, the Head of the Church, and became Mother of the redeemed before her Son gave up his spirit on the Cross. Pope Saint Paul VI solemnly confirmed the same title in an address given to the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council on November 21, 1964 and established that "by this sweetest of names the whole Christian people should henceforth give still greater honor to the Mother of God."

[USCCB](#), "The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (Memorial)" - *Liturgy of the Hours*, Biography

OUR LADY OF THE BOWED HEAD

As we know, Our Blessed Mother has many titles given to her, either where she appeared as in Fatima and Lourdes or based on a statue or picture located in a particular town or country where a shrine to her is located. Some are better known than others. Among the lesser known images of Our Mother is Our Lady of the Bowed Head, now located in Vienna, Austria. This is the story of this miraculous painting.

In 1610, in Sicily, a Discalced Carmelite Friar (declared Venerable in 1907) Dominic of Jesus and Mary was searching an old abandoned building for use as a monastery. He rummaged through a pile of rubbish and seeing nothing much of value there moved on to another pile. Something unsettled him, and he returned to the first pile. There, all dusty and dirty, Venerable Dominic saw what was a portrait of Our Lady of unknown origin. He quickly retrieved the painting and wiped it off as best as he could, all the while begging Our Lady's pardon for the condition of her portrait. He placed in his cell after accomplishing some restoration work. He prayed often to Our Lady asking her help in pleasing Jesus.

Venerable Dominic continued to venerate and care for the painting and noticed as time when on that dust had settled on it. He took out his miserable handkerchief and began to dust the painting. Again he apologized to her for allowing such carelessness on his part of her portrait. Suddenly the face of Our Lady became alive and she smiled and spoke to him, saying that a request he had made to her had been granted. "Fear not, my son, your request is granted. It will be accomplished, and will be part of the recompense that you are to receive for the love that you bear my Divine Son and myself." She then told him to ask whatever he wished. He asked Our Lady to release a particular soul, a benefactor, from Purgatory. Our Lady told him to have many Masses said and to make sacrifices. If he did so, the soul would be released. Venerable Dominic did as Our Lady asked and sometime later she appeared along with the released soul of the benefactor who thanked Dominic for his efforts on his behalf. Dominic then asked Our Lady if she would listen to others who were devoted to her portrait. To which she replied, "All those who implore my protection, devoutly honoring this picture, will obtain their petitions and will receive many graces. Moreover, I shall harken in a special manner to the prayers that shall be addressed to me for the relief of the souls in Purgatory." After hearing this, Venerable Dominic realized that Our Lady's portrait should be shared with all. It was moved to the Oratory of St. Charles, next to the Church of Santa Maria della Scala.

The portrait remained there and many favors were granted. Venerable Dominic died in 1630. The portrait was given to Maximilian, the Duke of Bavaria, who in turn, after a time, gave it to the Carmelite Fathers of Munich. The portrait was brought to Munich by Brother Anastasius of St Francis, Venerable Dominic's traveling companion, who attested all he heard about the miraculous portrait from Venerable Dominic in a document dated August 7, 1631.

Our Lady's portrait was moved again. This time it was given on loan to Emperor Ferdinand II in gratitude for starting up convents in Vienna and Prague. He and his wife Eleanor were overjoyed and placed the portrait in their private chapel. After Ferdinand's death, Eleanor moved the portrait to the convent of the Discalced Carmelites where she had retired. In 1901 a new church was built on Silbergasse (Silver Street) in Vienna, and Our Lady is permanently venerated there. On September 27, 1931, on the 300th anniversary of the portrait's arrival in Vienna, Pope Pius XI crowned Our Lady and that is how she is seen today.

Our Lady of the Bowed Head holds a special place in my heart as does the city of Vienna. During my 3 years there, I never knew the story of Our Lady of the Bowed Head. Upon returning to the States, I happened merely by chance upon her story. I was startled to realize how close to the church my home in Vienna was. On a visit back to Vienna, I dragged a Viennese friend to the church and there, on a side altar, hangs the beautiful portrait of Our Lady of the Bowed Head. I was overjoyed!

Sources:

[Aleteia website](#)

Miraculous Images of Our Lady by Joan Carroll Cruz
Tan Books 1993

By Clari Claus, OFS

—Clari Claus, OFS



CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities and Events

May is the Month of the Holy Virgin Mary *

May 3—Feast of Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
 May 6—Kelly Passero's birthday
 May 7—Tau Gathering
 May 14—Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle
 May 18—Ascension of the Lord
 May 22—National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea
 May 25—Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi
 May 26—Feast of St. Philippe Neri
 May 28—Pentecost
 May 30—Feast day of St. Joan of Arc
 May 31—Feast of the Queenship of Mary/Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

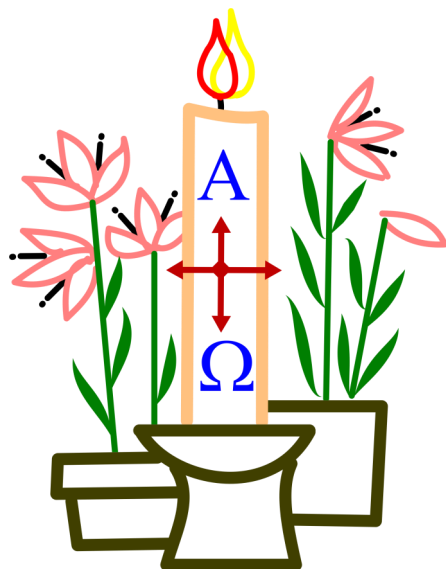
* See the Franciscan Calendar for more dates: [Traditional Franciscan Calendar \(roman-catholic-saints.com\)](http://Traditional Franciscan Calendar (roman-catholic-saints.com))

MAY 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



TAU ANNUAL RETREAT

The Quality of Mercy: Reflections from St Francis and Pope Francis

Lead by: Father Peter Lyons, TOR

When: May 19—21

Where: Priestfield Pastoral Center, WV

Single registration: \$275.00

Double registration: \$249.00

NEXT TAU GATHERING

May 7, 2023

SCHEDULE

1:30 pm – 1:32 pm Opening Prayer—**TBD**
1:32 pm – 2:12 pm Presentation—**TBD**
2:12 pm – 2:22 pm Break
2:22 pm – 3:02 pm Ongoing Formation
3:02 pm – 3:12 pm Break
3:12 pm – 3:22 pm Angelus & Liturgy of the Hours
3:22 pm – 3:32 pm Business Meeting
3:32 pm Closing Prayer

St. Joseph Church
Room 205

INITIAL FORMATION:

Candidates: Chapter 26 in *The Franciscan Journey*,

Inquirers: Chapter 10 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Aspirants: Chapter 5 in *The Franciscan Journey*

All members are welcome to join any of the classes.
Please email Bill Richey if interested!

ONGOING FORMATION:

Called to Build a More Fraternal and Evangelical World, by Fr. Benet Fonck, Article 9, pages 55-61

REGINA COELI

During Easter, we will precede the Liturgy of the Hours with the Regina Coeli in English

Regina Coeli

Queen of heaven, rejoice,
alleluia.

For He, whom thou
did merit to bear,
alleluia.

Has risen, as He said,
alleluia.

Pray for us to God,
alleluia.

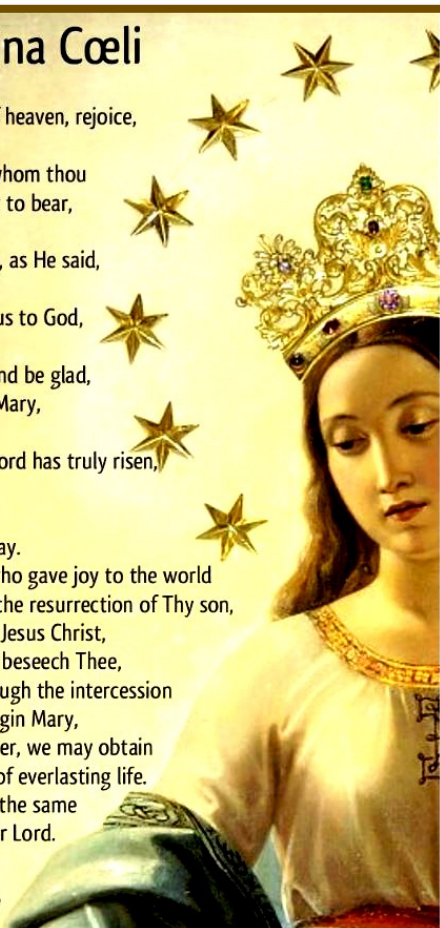
Rejoice and be glad,
O virgin Mary,
alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen,
alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world
through the resurrection of Thy son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
grant we beseech Thee,
that through the intercession
of the virgin Mary,
His mother, we may obtain
the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same
Christ our Lord.
Amen

Anastasia/19



LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Midday Prayer:

Hymn: #114 – I Am the Bread of Life, pg. 1629

Concluding Prayer from the Proper of Seasons, Fifth Sunday of Easter: pg. 523

Everything else: Daytime Prayer, Midday, Sunday: pg. 994

Evening Prayer:

Hymn: #114 – I Am the Bread of Life, pg. 1629

Psalms with Antiphons: Sunday, Week I
Evening Prayer II: pg. 712

Everything else: Fifth Sunday of Easter,
Evening Prayer II: pg. 523

Reader: **Lisa Jaeger, OFS**