

OFS



OLTAR E-VENTS

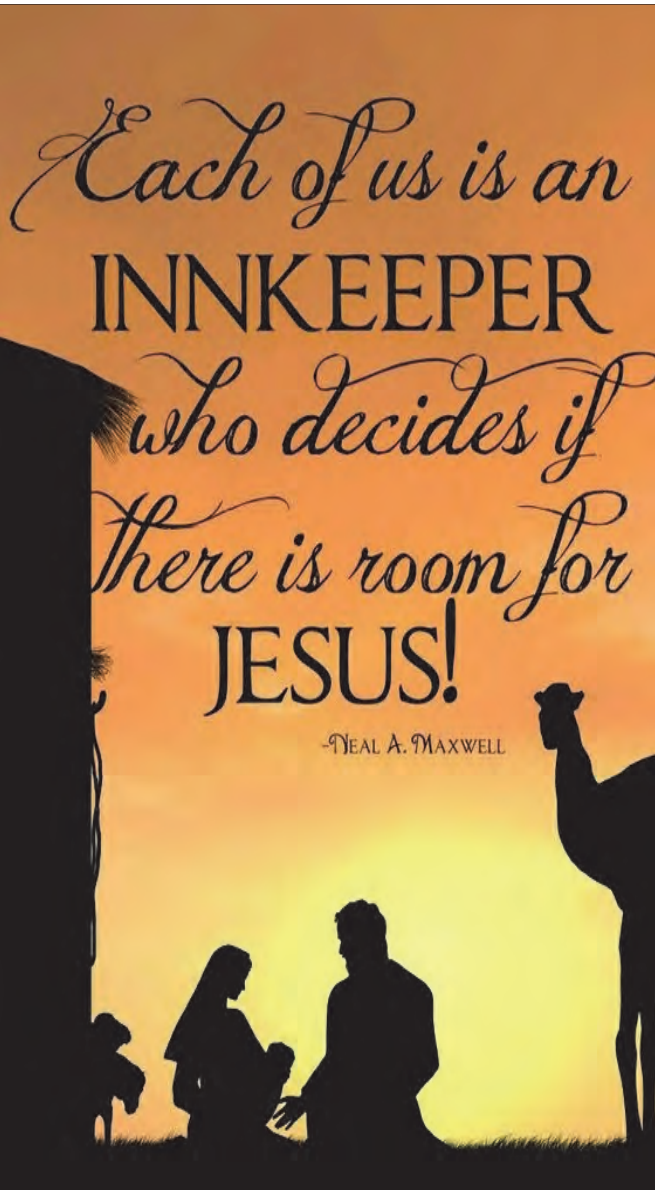
DECEMBER

2018

PUBLISHED BY OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE U.S.A.

CONNECTING OUR SECULAR FRANCISCAN MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

Celebrating 40 Years of the Approval of the 1978 Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order



Come and gather with other Franciscans to observe, participate and celebrate together.

If your fraternity or church has planned a gathering or special event, please send me your information for e-publication by the 25th of the preceding month.

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY 2019 ISSUE IS DECEMBER 26th

Send event listings to:

Anna Geraci, OFS
Publications Editor

acpg@aol.com

MARK SUBJECT LINE: OFS E-VENTS



WHEN THERE ARE NO FRATERNITY EVENT LISTINGS RECEIVED FOR A PARTICULAR MONTH, OFS E-VENTS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED FOR THAT MONTH.

Be sure to subscribe to our
REGIONAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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**OUR LADY
OF THE ANGELS
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COMMUNICATIONS**

The TROUBADOUR MAGAZINE
OFS E-VENTS NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR:

ANNA GERACI, OFS
161-B Cross Slope Ct.
Manalapan, NJ 07726
732-598-6766



E-mail:

TroubadourEditor@aol.com

Website:

[http://olangels.tripod.com/
troubadour.html](http://olangels.tripod.com/troubadour.html)

REGION WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR
DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS



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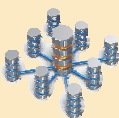
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The Advent season is a special time in the Church to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Unfortunately, its not always easy keeping the peaceful spirit of Advent in our hearts as the world promotes its own loud and noisy version of Christmas.

One simple way to try and capture that spirit of Advent is to pray this short prayer written by Dutch Catholic priest, Henri Nouwen. It is a beautiful prayer, one that can be prayed each day of Advent to help maintain a spirit of silence and peace.

*Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send Your Holy Spirit
upon our preparations for Christmas.*

*We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day.*

*We who are anxious over many things
look forward to Your coming among us.*

*We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of Your kingdom.*

*We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of Your presence.*

*We are Your people,
walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.*

*To You we say,
"Come Lord Jesus!"*



There is another ideal prayer for Advent, but it's not one that you haven't heard before — it's the Rosary. Yes, the Rosary is a powerful prayer at any time of year, but here are three reasons why the Rosary is an ideal prayer for Advent.



THE ROSARY TAKES US TO JESUS THROUGH MARY.

Advent and Christmas are eminently Christ-centered seasons, for the obvious reason that they are focused on the birth of Christ; however, they are also intensely Marian. Our Lady lived the most intense Advent of all time as she carried Jesus in her womb. Her life and His were intimately intertwined with a closeness that can only exist between Mother and Son, and especially between the Creator and the Mother He created for Himself. Who better for us to turn to while preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming?

THE ROSARY IS CONTEMPLATIVE.

We can only imagine how Mary spent the last weeks of her pregnancy! Like every mother, she was thinking of a thousand practical things, perhaps dealing with the physical difficulties of pregnancy, and had her hopes, dreams and anxieties. But she was also in a unique situation as she contemplated the words of the Angel Gabriel and the prophecies surrounding her Son.

Making time to pray the Rosary means finding a moment to quiet our hearts and minds, to concentrate and turn our thoughts to higher things. We can't pray the Rosary well while at work, at a shopping mall, or at a Christmas party. It forces us to take a time out and get in touch with Mary and with God. In the Rosary, we turn to Mary as a guide for meditating on the mysteries of Christ's life – mysteries that for Mary, during that first Advent, were mostly in the future, foreshadowed in the cryptic words of Scripture that would only become clear in retrospect.

We can ask her to help us see Jesus with her eyes, to feel her hope and joy, her inconveniences and fears embraced out of love for her Son and Savior.

THE ROSARY HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND THE FULL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.

As we contemplate the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious mysteries, we could think we're straying from the theme of Christmas. That's not entirely true. The birth of Jesus wasn't an isolated event; it was one step (an important one) on Jesus' path from his Incarnation nine months earlier to His Ascension into heaven. Jesus wasn't born just to be a cute baby in a manger; He was born to be our Savior. That means He was born to teach, to heal, and to die on the Cross. He was born to rise from the dead and ascend into heaven, giving us new life, opening the gates of heaven for us, and preparing a place for us.

Praying all the mysteries of the Rosary during Advent gives us a holistic view of what we are celebrating – it helps us to see Jesus' birth in the light of what comes before and after.

Whatever else we are doing during Advent to prepare ourselves for Christmas, it's a great idea to include the Rosary, the prayer that leads us to Christ through Mary.

DECEMBER 2 - ADVENT BEGINS

LET US PREPARE OUR
HEARTS FOR THE LORD!



Fraternity EVENTS



ADVENT TAIZE PRAYER EVENT

Tuesday, December 4, from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Madge Cooke, OFS, Minister from Saint Mary of the Angels Fraternity shares news that they are sponsoring an

Advent Taize prayer event in the St. Mary of the Angels chapel of the Holy Name of Jesus parish at 207 West 96th Street, New York, NY 10025. • Tel. 212-749-0276.

TAIZE PRAYER is an elegantly simple prayer service of songs, chants, Scripture reading, silent meditation and intercessions.

It would be nice for us to spend some Advent time together.

CHRIS LEONE, OFS, REGIONAL OLTAR COUNCILOR, CENTRAL NEW JERSEY AND STATEN ISLAND shares news that the St. Anthony of Padua Secular Franciscan Fraternity is hosting an

ADVENT MISSION

Sunday, December 9, at 3:30 p.m.

It will be held at St. John's Church, 317 1st Street, Dunellen, NJ.

Fr. Francisco Arredondo, OFM Cap. (Missionary of Mercy) and Bro. Lombardo D' Auria, OFM Cap. (Our Lady of the Angels Regional Spiritual Assistant) will lead a talk on Mercy followed by Adoration & Confession!

Any questions, please contact Italia Ragucci Testa, OFS, Tel. 732-604-9449.
All are welcome.



CHURCH ADVENT EVENTS



SOLEMN VESPERS FOR ADVENT

Thursday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, 135 West 31st Street,
New York, NY 10001 • Tel. 212-736-8500

Instruction and celebration come together in a “lecture – demonstration” of Vespers, one of the pillars of the official prayer of the Church. The evening will include an introduction to the Advent season, to the Jewish and Christian dimensions of the psalms we will be singing, and to the music we will be performing in praise of Him whose coming we await with eager expectation and certain hope.



AN ADVENT AFTERNOON OF PRAYER

Saturday, December 15, 2018, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M. • Fee: \$20.00

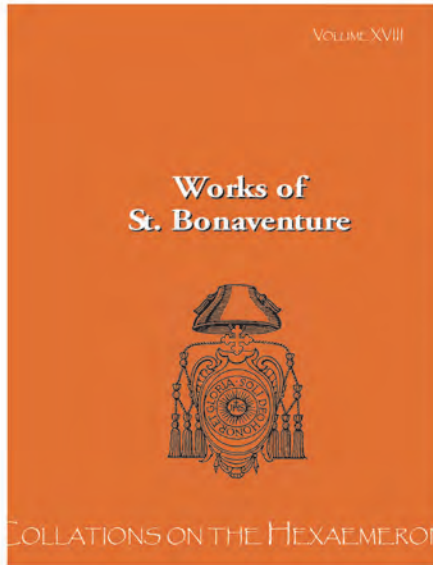
San Damiano Hall (Late registration starts at 1:30 p.m.)

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, 135 West 31st Street

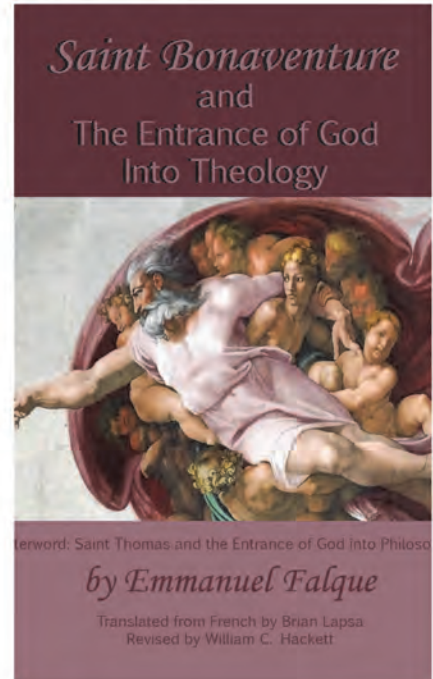
New York, NY 10001 • Tel. 212-736-8500 • www.stfrancisnyc.org

Although often called “Infancy Narratives,” the first chapters of the gospels of Matthew and Luke prepare adult believers to welcome an adult Christ at Christmas. In two presentations, Fr. William will explore several themes woven into the stories of Jesus’ conception and birth that invite us to a “grown up” celebration of the Feast of the Nativity and a more mature living out of our Christian commitment. The afternoon will include communal prayer as well as time for personal reflection, and conclude, for those who are able to participate, with St. Francis of Assisi Parish’s 5:15 p.m. Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent.

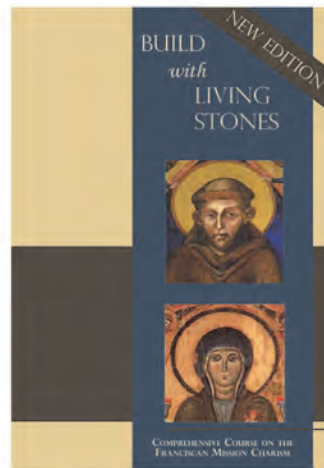
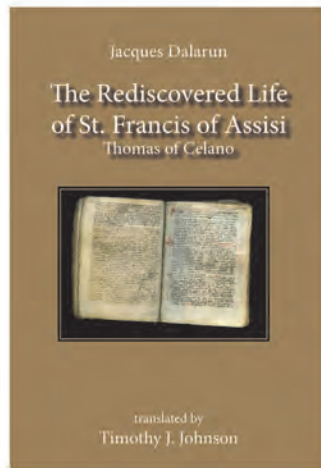
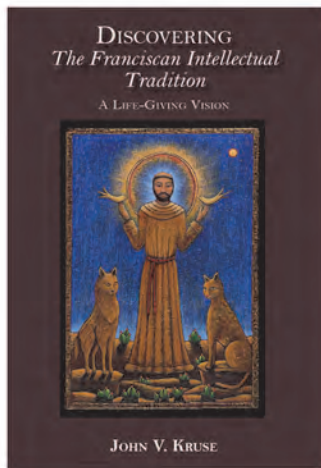
NEW RELEASES



CONFERENCES ON THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION:
THE ILLUMINATIONS OF THE CHURCH
TRANSLATION, INTRODUCTIONS, NOTES
by Jay M. Hammond



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DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2019

FECHA: SÁBADO, 22 DE JUNIO DE 2019

LOCATION: SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, SOUTH ORANGE

Keynote: Margaret Nutting Ralph, PhD

Orador Principal: Rev. Dempsey Rosales Acosta, S.S.L., S.T.D.

Adults of all ages are welcome to this annual conference.

Join us as we explore the Bible and encounter God through His Word today.

Keynote addresses and workshops will be given in English and Spanish.

Additional details and registration information will be available soon.

Los adultos de todas las edades son bienvenidos a esta conferencia anual.

Únase a nosotros mientras exploramos la Biblia y nos

encontramos con Dios a través de su Palabra.

Conferencias de apertura y talleres se ofrecerán en español e inglés.

Detalles adicionales e información de registraci3n estar3n disponibles pronto.