



The Little Flower Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order St. Margaret de Cortona Region

Come and be fed...body, mind, soul and spirit

April 10, 2023

Dearest sisters and brothers of Penance in the Little Flower Fraternity OFS,

Our Secular Franciscan Order is a special canonical organization within the Roman Catholic Church and the Franciscan Order. We are not a social club or a parish ministry.

The OFS was created under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by Saint Francis of Assisi as he answered the cries of Blessed Lucheso and Bella Donna, his wife, to provide a way for lay persons to live the Franciscan charism in their everyday lives.

The roots of our branch of Franciscanism then were planted in Heaven from our very beginning within the heart of Francis and the Franciscan order. This is why we Seculars take our profession into the Order so seriously. This is why candidates spend as long as three years in formation before their profession. And at profession the candidates pledge to follow Jesus in the spirit of Saint Francis for the rest of their lives.

Profession is one of the most serious commitments we make in our lives. We make it prayerfully and with full consent of the will. From the moment of profession we are marked by a special charism as a member of the third order following in the footsteps of our Seraphic Father, Saint Francis of Assisi. With humility we now add the letters O.F.S. after our names for the rest of our lives, and profess to live the Gospel life from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel in obedience to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Brothers and sisters, let us always remember our fraternal life as Secular Franciscans is integral to our formation and growth in our Franciscan vocation and our relationship with Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. It is so serious in nature that it has been inscribed into our rule as a requirement and a sign of our commitment to walking the Franciscan Way.

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday of every month (except this April 8, 2023 when it falls on Holy Saturday, causing us to meet on April 15) when we gather to share our love for the Lord and each other at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Burke Hall. Holy Mass at 900am is optional but highly encouraged, the social gathering begins at 930am and the formal gathering begins at 10am and ends at noon.

I ask that we all, in the final days of Lent 2023, prayerfully encounter the Lord Jesus at the center of our Franciscan vocational call and renew in Him the promises we made to Him on the day of our profession.

As we continue our journey with Jesus, Mary, the Apostles, and the Disciples to Jerusalem may the Lord bless us during these final days of Lent, in Holy Week, and in the glory of Our Blessed Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The Lord gives you His peace,

Phillip Francis Pucher, O.F.S.
Minister

A Message from our Treasurer:

I wish to address **two** very important items with you.

First, we have now come to that time of year when each of us is to submit our Fair Share to our treasury. If you have already submitted yours for 2023, a profound "thank you" is in order. This year's Fair Share is remaining the same at \$40 for the year. Your contribution is due to the Little Flower Treasury by the end of April. Please make sure to mark your payment as "FAIR SHARE". These funds are submitted to the region in totality. None of the Fair Share collection remains with the Little Flower Fraternity. Your contribution is sent to the Regional Treasurer where some remains for the region and the balance is sent to the National Council. After the National Council holds their share, the balance is sent to the International Council. These funds help the Order on a much larger scale to help maintain, grow and hold to the steadfast tenets of our Secular Franciscan lives. If you are unsure if you have submitted your contribution for 2023 or are having difficulty with this contribution, please reach out to the Council.

Second, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord is the foundation on which our faith was built. As we journey with Jesus in these coming days remember to take the time to pray and reflect on Scripture and contemplate the events that brought Him to Calvary. But, go deeper. As sinners, followers and penitents it is our duty to evaluate our own personal journey and to look at the ways in which we have failed, faltered and what we have done to make things right. While we do not want to be boastful about how we have repented, it is acceptable to self-acknowledge the ways we were of service to God as a means to "keep things in check." Just remember that we do not have to wait until Lent/Easter to do all of this. This is something that must be on-going as Secular Franciscans. This is not a "one and done" type thing.

Self-evaluation of our lives, challenges, responsibilities, commitments (etc. etc.) is necessary to lead a balanced life. All of these can start to snowball and before we know it we have committed to way too many things. (Admit it...we have all done this!) This over commitment can start to take its toll on our physical, mental and spiritual well-being. In recent months my commitments have changed. I find I need to make some changes in order to stay physically and mentally healthy and to allow my spirituality to not be overwhelmed by all the other responsibilities life has been throwing at me. The daunting decision had to be made. Something had to give. After considerable prayer and discernment, I have submitted my request to the Little Flower Fraternity Council to take a sabbatical starting May 1, 2023 with a re-evaluation in December 2023.

At our Council meeting on March 28, 2023 it was voted that the following members would be filling the positions of Treasurer and Newsletter Editor:

Effective May 1, 2023, please address all **treasury** questions and submission of contributions to:

- Stas Chrazanowski
- 2772 Lighthouse Point E #310
- Baltimore, MD 21224
- stanchrz@comcast.net
- 443-449-7401

All **newsletter** information should now be **TEMPORARILY** directed to:

- Joan Kane
- 8511 Coltrane Court #402
- Ellicott City, MD 21043
- Joankane1014@gmail.com
- 410-925-7910

The decision to take this sabbatical did not come lightly by any means. It was one of the most difficult decisions I have made in my life. I ask for continued prayers as I go on this journey. I will be keeping all of you in prayer as well. I kindly ask that you respect my request for this sabbatical so that I may have the time and space I need to listen to how God is calling me to serve Him.

I wish each of you and your loved ones a very Holy and Blessed Easter.

Pax,

Lisa Gough, OFS

What's next....

April Gathering



Saturday, April 15th, 2023

Mass 9AM

Gathering 10am - Noon

Please bring your own beverage/snack.

******HELP US HELP ST. FRANCIS CHURCH FOOD PANTRY!******

******PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO EACH GATHERING!******

(Note: If you are bringing items from your personal pantry, please check the expiration dates and kindly do not bring expired items for donation as they will likely be discarded)



The key to our success is COMMUNICATION!

If you are in need of prayers for yourself or an immediate family member,
please make sure to contact our Infirmarian

Helen Tumminello

Phone 410-859-8226 (Preferred) or e-mail: hltumminello@aol.com

Helen will then get out an e-mail and make phone calls with the information.

Please keep our contact information in a place with your Will and/or final wishes so that your loved ones can notify us at the appropriate time.

PRAYER REQUESTS

*In order to protect the privacy of our Sisters and Brothers,
we are only listing the names of those who have asked for/or are in need of our prayers.*

Phil Pucher	Barb Bruno	John Tumminello	Helen Tumminello	Jim Childress
	Dennis Bernardo	Jaci Curry	Debbie Gough (Sister-in-law of Lisa)	
Kathleen Hale	Elsie Saylor	Jennifer and Brian	Dean Burnap	Stephanie (Mark Evans' niece)
Tanya Marie	Marlene Jones	Rich Polkowski	Lawson	Barbara Teller
	Ed Stepke	Ron Teller	Sean Frederick	

Enrollment in Perpetual Masses Opportunity

*To enroll in Perpetual Masses
National Shrine of Our Lady Good Help
4047 Chapel Drive
New Franken, WI 54229
920-866-2571
<https://championshrine.org/>*

Retreat...Reflect...Reconnect

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth

On **Saturday, April 29** a very special seminar will be given in keeping with the Easter Season.
Fr. Charley Miller OFM will present two topics:

The Primacy of Christ, and **The Meaning of Atonement in the Theology of our Redemption**

Where: Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America in Washington, DC

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00pm

Cost: \$30 - lunch provided

Please note the deadline is April 22 or when the seminar is filled.

Register at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094daaa72eaf94-primacy#/>

Translation equipment is available for those who request it. Let Rita know at rlcolleran10@gmail.com.

Regional Formation Retreat Weekend

June 23-25, 2023

Washington Retreat House

Please send the following to Peter Noyes, Regional Treasurer

- Name of Attendee
- Name of Fraternity
- Email address
- Phone number and address if no email address

Along with the deposit check of \$175 made payable to St. Margaret of Cortona Region.

Please mail check and information to: Peter Noyes
1904 Atkisson Rd
Joppa MD 21085-1811

Regional Retreat

We are set for our **July 21 – 23, 2023** regional retreat at the Loyola Retreat Center in Faulkner, Maryland. The cost for the weekend retreat is \$275, additional information can be found on our regional website at <https://saintmargaretof cortona.org/upcoming-events/>

Latest Up To Now issue link:

<https://saintmargaretof cortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022-November-Up-To-Now-Newsletter.pdf>

Prayer for Canonization of Blessed John Duns Scotus

O Most High, Almighty and gracious Lord, Who exalts the humble and confounds the proud heart, grant us the great joy of seeing Blessed John Duns Scotus canonized. He honored Your Son with the most sublime praises; he was the first to successfully defend the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary; he lived in heroic obedience to the Holy Father, to the Church and to Seraphic Order. O most Holy Father, God of infinite love, hear, we beseech You, our humble prayer, through the merits of Your Only Begotten Son and His Mother, the Gate of Heaven and Spouse of the Holy Spirit.



Adoration Corner

Baltimore Basilica

www.adorationpro.org/baltimorebasilica

(select weekly commitment)

Questions ana.farias@baltimorebasilica.org

St. Francis of Assisi

Thursdays 8am-Noon

Immaculate Conception Church (Towson)

<https://adorationpro.org/ictowson>

St. Philip Neri

Wednesdays 9am-6pm

St. Benedict Catholic Church

Wednesday's 8am – 6pm

Mass and Novena at 6:30pm

Justice, Peace for the Integrity of Creation

Theme for April – Human Trafficking

Teresa Knauff, OFS will provide additional information at the Gathering

Little Flower News Reel

Birthday Celebrant:

April:

Marissa Reynoso	April 1 st
Maria Mercaldo	April 22 nd
Lisa Gough	April 27 th
Fr. Bart Karwacki	April 28 th

Profession Anniversaries:

April:

Barb Bruno	4/22/2001
Maria Mercaldo	4/22/2012
John O'Hara	4/20/1986
Phil Pucher	4/27/2003

Charity for April: **Beans and Bread**

Treasurer's Report:

Little Flower Fraternity
Financial Report
March 26, 2023

Net balance as of	2/27/2023		\$ 2,551.93
Income:			
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 275.00
Expenses:			
ck 1567	Source of All Hope	\$ 200.00	Fr. Gough/Fr. Fitzgerald Mission Support
ck 1568	Fr. Bart Karwacki	\$ 150.00	1st qtr Stipend
ck 1569	Helen Tumminello	\$ 30.00	Mass Cards
ck 1570	St. Francis Church	\$ 50.00	February Gathering
ck 1571	Food for the Hungry	\$ 100.00	Charitable Contribution
ck 1572	FFA #418	\$ 225.00	Apostolate 1st qtr Contribution
	TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 755.00
Other:			
Returned check		\$ (50.00)	
Service Charge	December 2022 and January 2023	\$ (16.00)	
Net Income/(Loss)		\$ (546.00)	
Net Balance		\$ 2,005.93	
	Working Balance as of 3/26/2023		<u>\$ 2,005.93</u>

Please make **ALL** checks payable to: **LITTLE FLOWER FRATERNITY**

Mail to: Little Flower Fraternity
c/o Stas Chrazanowski
2772 Lighthouse Point E, #310
Baltimore, MD 21224

Little Flower Fraternity Council

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Bart Karwacki, OFM Conv. bartkar47@gmail.com

Minister	Phil Pucher, OFS	ofspilpucher.21@yahoo.com	410-243-2924
Vice Minister	Al Gigel, OFS	Albertofs14@gmail.com	443-762-6722
Treasurer (appointed)	Stas Chrazanowski, OFS	stanchrz@comcast.net	443-449-7401
Secretary	Beth Dykton, OFS	mybese@aol.com	301-641-4764
Formation Director	Joan Kane, OFS	joankane1014@gmail.com	410-925-7910
Elected Councilor	Mike Huether	Michaelhuether4@gmail.com	410-963-0190
Elected Councilor	Kelly Frederick, OFS	Kellyfrederick0@gmail.com	410-967-1794
Elected Councilor	Gary Haigley	None	410-477-0016
Infirmarian	Helen Tumminello, OFS	hltumminello@aol.com	410-859-8226
JPIC Coordinator	Teresa Knauff	teresalmknauff@gmail.com	410-300-4452