




The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
 Secular Franciscan Order – April 2023
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

The Porter deadline for May is the 10th. Please send news, events, prayer requests, poems, or any interesting items that you think other members may enjoy to: Joan Faltot, 8217 Grainfield Rd, Severn, MD 21144, or send by email to jd6bouv@verizon.net.

 Fraternity Gathering	<p align="center">Saturday, April 15, 2023</p> <p align="center">Mass at 8:30 AM at the Chapel on the Hill</p> <p align="center"><u>Sacred Heart, 16501 Annapolis Rd, Bowie, MD 20715</u></p> <p align="center">Meeting at 9:00 *** Whitmarsh Hall (by the chapel)</p> <p>(The Parish Office at St. John the Evangelist is unavailable for our meeting due to workers installing installation.)</p>				
Refreshments 	<p>Glen Burnie/Pasadena Please remember to bring your coffee cup. Annapolis/Eastern Shore will be next, so please arrange to take the supplies home and restock if necessary.</p>				
Liturgy	Welcome Ceremony for Monica Ruppert				
Program	Book Discussion: chapter 1 & 2 of <i>When Saint Francis Saved the Church</i> . Speakers: MJ and Jerry Park from Little Friends for Peace				
SAVE THE DATE	<p>Our May fraternity gathering will be on May 20 at Capuchin College where we will celebrate the profession of Linda Haney. Mass will at 11:00 am followed by a cold buffet.</p>				
Prayer Requests 	<p>For physical and spiritual healing of: Audrey Bushée, Lita Milan, Bill Chitty, John Cobis, Jerry Miente, Kathleen Sievers, Judge Dodge, Carole Marsh's sister, Harry Thompson, Jeanne Wilbourne, Ed Wilbourne (rehabilitation), Jackie Chaplin (sister of Kathleen Sievers), Joan Kvetkas, Gertrude Shelton (Marie's mom), Ed Sievers (Kathleen's husband), Evelyn Jones, Tessie Chitty, Kellie Eye (granddaughter of Susan Greif), Bill Mulqueen, Ruth Shea's husband Tim, Evelyn Jones' niece, Jimmy Wilbourne, Gerard Malka (brother of Genny Wilbourne), Carolyn Malka (sister-in-law of Genny Wilbourne) <i>(Please help update this list by sending changes/additions/deletions to jd6bouv@verizon.net)</i></p>				
Birthdays	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Santa Ragot – 04/21</td> <td>Audrey Donnelly – 05/06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catherine Gonzalez – 05/04</td> <td>Carmen Delgado – 05/07</td> </tr> </table>	Santa Ragot – 04/21	Audrey Donnelly – 05/06	Catherine Gonzalez – 05/04	Carmen Delgado – 05/07
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Profession Anniversaries	Audrey Bushée – 05/08/1979				
Council Meeting	Friday, May 5 at 7:00 via Zoom				
Upcoming Events	<p>July 21 – 23, 2023 Regional Retreat. Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House, 9270 Loyola Retreat Rd, Faulkner, MD 20664. Weekend facilitator: Fr. Charley Miller, OFM, Holy Name College, Silver Spring, Dd. Details are in the works. For latest information see: https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/upcoming-events/</p>				



Minister's Minute:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, As we rejoice in our Risen Savior and the gift of our salvation and that of the newly Baptized, we thank God for each of you and our shared faith and vocation. We look forward to Linda Haney's profession on May 20th at Cap College. We will have two newcomers Seth and Diane to greet this month at our meeting at SACRED HEART.

Our meeting is packed with activity so please help us all with being sensitive to this timing which the Council worked out---9:15-9:45 food and fellowship greeting Seth and Diane, 9:45-10:30, Fr. Patrick/Book Discussion, 10:30-10:40 Linda Haney sharing, 10:40 Welcoming Ceremony (Ritual book) Monica Ruppert, Break, 11: Little Friends of Peace

April 21 is our patron St. Conrad of Parzham's feast. He is a wonderful model for us. See more in Porter.

April 22nd is Earth Day 2023- This year's theme is Invest in our Planet. See goodgoodgood.com (seriously) for good news about progress in saving the planet. Be patient with the website it's worth it.

April 16th --Divine Mercy Sunday- Sr. Donata who spoke to us is the superior of the Sisters at the John Paul II Shrine and there are devotions there April 16th 1pm Adoration and Confession; 2pm Mass Eucharistic Procession and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. A book that has been a blessing for me is *Jesus I Trust in You--a 30-Day Personal Retreat* based on the Litany of Trust with meditations including stories of Saints like Francis, Augustine, Padre Pio, Margaret of Castello, Pier Frassati, Fr. Jerzy, etc etc by Sr. Faustina Maria Pia S.V. Emmaus Road publishing.

Personally, I would like to express my sorrow at the passing of Teri Egan, OFS, who spent time at our fraternity and served the Region as secretary for a long time attending many retreats and meetings with us. May she rest in peace. PEACE, LOVE AND JOY, JUDITH

APRIL SPEAKERS: MJ AND JERRY PARK FROM LITTLE FRIENDS FOR PEACE

Come hear the inspiring story that 2 people have made in bringing much needed peace to our communities. In 1981, MJ and Jerry Park founded Little Friends for Peace (LFFP). Named the "little" part we can all play in spreading peace. LFFP works tirelessly to eradicate violence by teaching skills for peace.

In 2006, LFFP officially became 501 (c) (3) tax exempt nonprofit and continues to operate through individual donor support.

LFFP run week-long Peace Camps throughout the summer and bring peace education to schools and after school programs for youth across DC-MD-VA area. LFFP also offers training, peace circles and enrichment programs for adults throughout the year.

In 2009, the Parks purchased the "Peace Oasis" in Accokeek, MD where visitors can experience peace with nature.

We are privileged to have MJ and Jerry join our fraternity gathering on April 15th at Sacred Heart in Bowie. Plan on experiencing a peace circle and learn how St. Conrad's could partner with LFFP. All guests are welcome.

P.S. MJ is in formation to become a Secular Franciscan at our sister fraternity that meets at Cap. College.

Ruth Shea OFS

PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN AMERICA

For an end to all violence in our schools, we pray.. Lord fulfill your promise for peace

For solace and comfort for all families who have lost a precious child of God to senseless violence in our schools and communities, we pray.. Lord fulfill your promise of peace

For a renewed commitment of concern for the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual lives of all our young people, we pray.. Lord fulfill your promise of peace

For the courage and strength of all those who serve our communities through the schools, for administration, staff and teachers, we pray.. Lord fulfill your promise of peace

For the response of our young people that their devotion to taking action against the fear they are experiencing be grounded in peacebuilding, we pray.. Lord fulfill your promise of peace

For our own intentions which we bring before you now, we pray.. Lord fulfill your promise of peace

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for your continuing generosity !!!

Feb. Ending Balance		\$4,426.95
FFA Stipend	(\$100)	\$4,326.95
SA Stipend	(\$100)	\$4,226.95
March Donations	\$1,110.00	\$5,336.95
Quarterly Distributions:		
Phoenix Academy	(\$590.00)	
Bus Tokens	(\$250.00)	
Balance		\$4,496.95

Fraternity contributions can be mailed to:

*Joe McHugh
1740 Tedbury St
Crofton, MD 21114*

Remember, when making your donation to the fraternity, use the memo line of your check to designate where you wish your contribution to be directed. There are three possible designations:

COM - Common Fund (this covers fraternity operations and the Sabu family in India)

BUS - bus tokens for the Light House shelter clients

Phoenix – Phoenix Academy ‘backpack’ food program

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES – DENISE MIANTE

Phoenix Academy – Food bags were filled Wednesday, March 15. Next scheduled filling will be on **Wednesday, April 19th at 9:30 am** in the cafeteria. Contact Denise if you are able to help.

Shelter Lunches – Made and delivered 50 sandwiches on Thursday, March 23rd. Next scheduled sandwich-making is on **Thursday, April 27 at 9:45 am** at Catherine’s home. For additional information, contact Catherine at cmgonzalez59@outlook.com.

Shelter Bus Passes -- 150 passes were bought and delivered on March 23rd. Next batch will be done in June.

ST. CONRAD OF PARZHAM -- FEAST DAY: APRIL 21

A very extensive biography including the following can be found at:

<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/saint-conrad-of-parzham-gods-doorkeeper/#post-4491-Toc18827700>

On 4 October 1852, the Feast of Saint Francis, Brother Conrad had the happiness of making profession as a son of Saint Francis of Assisi. According to custom, the novice prepared for the momentous day by retreat. Perhaps we can find no better indication of the spirit in which he took the eventful step that bound him to a life of labor and sacrifice for God, than the resolutions that he penned during the days of the spiritual exercises. He headed the memo, "Resolutions taken with great deliberation and full confidence in the assistance of Jesus and Mary to help me to keep them." These are the resolutions:

1. **Presence of God:** "I will strive earnestly to form the habit of always placing myself in the presence of God and of often asking myself, 'Would I do this or that if my confessor or superior were observing me, and especially in the presence of God and my Angel Guardian.'"
2. **Bearing the Cross:** "I will often ask myself when crosses and pain come to me, 'Brother Conrad, why are you here?'"
3. **Protection of the Cloister:** "I will, as much as possible, avoid going out of the monastery, unless charity to my neighbor or obedience or health require it, or for some other good reason."
4. **Fraternal Charity:** "I will earnestly strive to cultivate brotherly love. I will patiently bear with the faults, defects, and weaknesses of others, and, as far as I can, I will throw the mantle of charity over them whenever I am obliged to report them to one who has the power to correct them."
5. **Silence:** "I will observe silence as much as possible. I will be sparing of words in conversation and so avoid many faults and may be able to converse better with God."
6. **Frugality:** "At table I will place myself in the presence of God. . . . I will deny myself dishes that I would relish particularly and will practice mortifications that are least noticeable. Outside of mealtime I will take no food unless commanded by holy obedience."
7. **Punctuality:** "If not otherwise prevented, I will go to the choir immediately when the signal is given."
8. **Chastity:** "As much as possible I will avoid association with persons of the other sex, unless obedience compels me."
9. **Obedience:** "I will practice obedience exactly and punctually and will endeavor to conquer my own will in all things."
10. **Fidelity to Rule:** "I will try to be faithful, even in small matters. I will never depart from the holy Rule, even by a hair's breadth."
11. **Devotion to the Mother of God:** "I will ever strive to cultivate a tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin and will endeavor to imitate her virtues."

This month at our fraternity gathering, we will begin a discussion of Jon Sweeney's book When Saint Francis Saved the Church by discussing Chapters 1 and 2. In Chapter 1, page 10, one of the objectives of the book is to explore Francis's spiritual vision and how it changed the church. He goes on to suggest that Pope Francis is changing the atmosphere in the Catholic Church today and he quotes a couple of lines from Pope Francis's homily that he spoke when addressing the cardinals who elected him. I thought you might like to read this entire homily which is provided on the next page.

Pope Francis First Homily -- Addressing the Cardinals Who Elected Him

March 14, 2013

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130314_omelia-cardinali.html

In these three readings, I see a common element: that of movement. In the first reading, it is the movement of a journey; in the second reading, the movement of building the Church; in the third, in the Gospel, the movement involved in professing the faith. Journeying, building, professing.

(Is 2:5). This is the first thing that God said to Abraham: Walk in my presence and live blamelessly. **Journeying:** our life is a journey, and when we stop moving, things go wrong. Always journeying, in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord, seeking to live with the blamelessness that God asked of Abraham in his promise.

Building. Building the Church. We speak of stones: stones are solid; but living stones, stones anointed by the Holy Spirit. Building the Church, the Bride of Christ, on the cornerstone that is the Lord himself. This is another kind of movement in our lives: building.

Thirdly, **professing.** We can walk as much as we want, we can build many things, but if we do not profess Jesus Christ, things go wrong. We may become a charitable NGO, but not the Church, the Bride of the Lord. When we are not walking, we stop moving. When we are not building on the stones, what happens? The same thing that happens to children on the beach when they build sandcastles: everything is swept away, there is no solidity. When we do not profess Jesus Christ, the saying of Léon Bloy comes to mind: "Anyone who does not pray to the Lord prays to the devil." When we do not profess Jesus Christ, we profess the worldliness of the devil, a demonic worldliness.

Journeying, building, professing. But things are not so straightforward, because in journeying, building, professing, there can sometimes be jolts, movements that are not properly part of the journey: movements that pull us back.

This Gospel continues with a situation of a particular kind. The same Peter who professed Jesus Christ, now says to him: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I will follow you, but let us not speak of the Cross. That has nothing to do with it. I will follow you on other terms, but without the Cross. When we journey without the Cross, when we build without the Cross, when we profess Christ without the Cross, we are not disciples of the Lord, we are worldly: we may be bishops, priests, cardinals, popes, but not disciples of the Lord.

My wish is that all of us, after these days of grace, will have the courage, yes, the courage, to walk in the presence of the Lord, with the Lord's Cross; to build the Church on the Lord's blood which was poured out on the Cross; and to profess the one glory: Christ crucified. And in this way, the Church will go forward.

My prayer for all of us is that the Holy Spirit, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, our Mother, will grant us this grace: to walk, to build, to profess Jesus Christ Christ crucified. Amen

Thanks be to God Pope Francis was able to celebrate the Easter liturgies of Holy Week and give the Easter Message and Urbi and Orbi. For a more recent message from Pope Francis, read highlights at vaticannews.va.

To see the full text of the of Pope Francis's homilies, documents, from Pope Francis, go to <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2023.index.html>