



Our Lady of the Rosary  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity  
Williamsburg, Virginia



[www.olrsfo.weebly.com](http://www.olrsfo.weebly.com)

July 2023

## Message from the Minister. . .

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Francis and Clare,

For the last few months, I have been blessed to be able to attend Regional Formation Retreats, both in person and on Zoom. The following comes from a talk given by Fr. Stephen King, OFM Conv.

We know that OFS Rule 11 calls us to Holy Poverty, but what does that mean for Secular Franciscans? Since we live in the world, in families, how do we need to look at poverty. It's easy to try to put specific guidelines as to the dollar amount in savings, or how big our house can be before we say we're not following the rule, but is that the right way to look at poverty? The beginning of Rule 11 states:

"Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children..."

The wrong question to ask is: "How much can I have before it's too much or a sin?" That's looking at poverty from a legalistic not a spiritual viewpoint. You're missing what Francis and the SFO is asking of us.

So, what questions might we ask?

What do we need to survive? Food, water, shelter, medical care, etc.

What is useful but not necessary? A car so we can get to work; a phone or computer so we can connect with family, friends, work; etc.

What is neither necessary or useful but makes life more satisfying? Beauty: art, music, books, nature, etc.



Even these questions can be looked at from a legalistic point of view. So, how can we look at these questions from a spiritual point of view? We need to remember that nothing we have is our own (except our sins – St. Francis). Everything comes from God as gifts and we are stewards of these gifts. Having stuff just to have stuff is a value of the world. It's greed, one of the seven deadly sins. We need to be able to detach from what we have and live a simpler life. Holding on to what we have, just to hold on to it keeps us from being stewards of these gifts for the benefit of God's children. We need to be content, satisfied with what God has given us and thank him for his gifts to us.

St. Francis connected poverty with humility. In Rule 11, we go back to the Gospel and remember that "Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life." We need to stay humble. If we are proud of our poverty, we are no longer humble. In A Salutation of the Virtues, the manuscript tradition suggests that Francis saw these virtues as Mary's virtues; yet they are clearly those of any Christian who has died to sin. The following is a section of the Salutation of the Virtues where Francis speaks to simplicity, poverty and humility.

May you have a joyous 4<sup>th</sup> of July and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Peace and all good,

Peg



**Did you do your homework?** Donna Kendall challenged everyone in the fraternity to reach out to another member and schedule a social outing to get to know each other a little bit more. Ani Kelly, Genni McGlynn and Karen Coulson met at the Chick-fil-A in Williamsburg for breakfast. The topic of discussion was their experience regarding the healing Mass at St. Bede that was held the night before.

**Don't forget** to connect socially with a different fraternity member this month. We can't wait to hear about your visit and what you learned about each other.

## Did you know Eileen's been traveling?



### Ireland...and Wearing my TAU

In May, I spent 3 weeks traveling throughout Ireland with my sister and nephew. This was my third trip to Ireland. I had traveled there in 2004 and 2005 with my brother and sister.

My parents were born in Ireland; my mother in Knock, County Mayo, my dad in Ballynahinch, County Down... a catholic living in the North of Ireland during the troubles. On previous trips we had visited where my parents were born, and prayed at Our Lady of Knock shrine in Knock.

We lost my brother suddenly last August and this was a pilgrimage to honor him throughout Ireland.

We were on a self-driving tour; my nephew drove 1200 miles throughout Ireland.... yes, wrong side of the road, teeny tiny roads and all. It really is the only way to see the county. No tour buses, quiet places of peace and reflection.

We started in Dublin, and ended in Dublin. We traveled to Belfast, Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Killarney, Kinsale, Cork, and Kilkenny. And everywhere we went, we made friends and, I believe, made an impact.

You see, I was always wearing my Tau. I'll admit I don't wear it every single day. Yes, always to church, fraternity meetings, and any spiritual activities, but not on a daily basis.

And I can tell you my Tau drew people to me. I could feel it, and I believe they could too. Somehow, they sensed safety, trust, and love. It wasn't me; it was the Holy Spirit working through the Tau. Out of the blue people would come up to me, smile, and tell something deep within them. This happened at all types of random, but quiet, places. I was touched by their sincerity and freedom to speak to a stranger. There were smiles, tears, and hugs. I now have contact information for people from all over Ireland.

When we wear our Tau, our Franciscan charism is present to the world. It means peace, trust, respect and love.

Eileen Murray, OFS





## The Pope's Monthly Intentions



### July—For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

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## *Simply Bonaventure An Introduction to His Life, Thought and Writings*

### Book Study



Peg Crews, Carol Murphy, Eileen Murray, Donna Kendall and Karen Coulson (not pictured—taking photo) came together to begin a book study on *Simply Bonaventure An Introduction to His Life, Thought and Writings*. The group is meeting once a month to share and discuss the text. Thank you to Eileen for hosting the event in her home.

## Upcoming Important Dates

### Anniversary of Profession:

Susan James - July 27, 1989

### Birthdays

Carol Murphy—July 17

Next Fraternity Meeting—July 16th at 1:00pm (social gathering from 12:30-1:00)



# 2023 Loyola Regional Retreat

July 21 – 23, 2023



**Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House**  
**9270 Loyola Retreat Rd, Faulkner, MD 20664**  
**Phone: 1 301 392-0800**

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The Saint Margaret of Cortona Regional Council looks forward to seeing you on **July 21 – 23, 2023** at the Annual Regional Retreat

Information for the weekend retreat – Check-in time after 4 PM on Friday – Check-out time after lunch on Sunday

The **cost per person is \$275** (all single rooms) all meals included

A **non-refundable deposit Check, for \$175**, is required. Make check payable to: **St. Margaret of Cortona Region** – The deadline to send your deposit check is **July 1, 2023**.

When sending in your check, include the following: **Your name, email address, and the name of your fraternity**

Mail check to Peter Noyes  
1904 Atkisson Road  
Joppa, MD 21085-1811

If you have questions concerning cost or non-refundable deposits, contact Peter at: [pnoyesofs@gmail.com](mailto:pnoyesofs@gmail.com)

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Our weekend facilitator will be Fr. Charley Miller, OFM, Holy Name College, Silver Spring, Md.

**The theme for the weekend Retreat is – WHAT’S NEXT, DISCERNMENT AND LIFE’S CROSSROADS**



Fr. Charley has a Master’s degree in Counseling, Theology, and Social Work. He has special training in clinical pastoral work, family and marriage therapy, spiritual direction, and substance abuse counseling. Fr. Charley has experience in marriage and family counseling and spiritual direction for the last 35 years.

He has been in parish work for almost fifty years and spent eleven years in formation work with the young OFM Franciscan friars. Fr. Charley says he would like to think that he approached all these from a Franciscan perspective.

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**We ask attendees to bring a small snack to share at our Friday and Saturday evening socials**



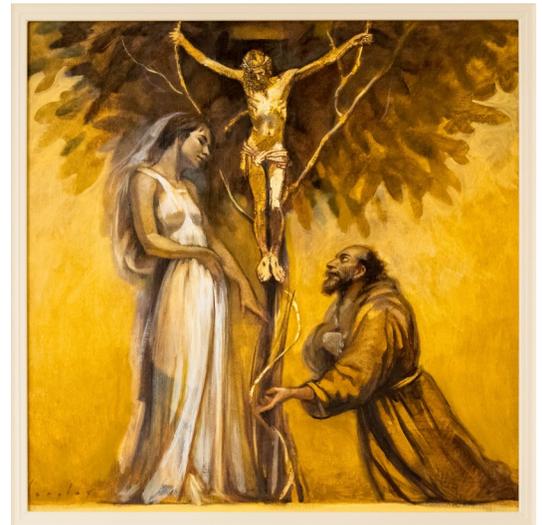
### Salutation of the Virtues

Lady holy Poverty,  
may the Lord protect You,  
with Your Sister, holy Humility!

Pure holy Simplicity confounds  
*all the wisdom of this world*  
and the wisdom of the body.

Holy Poverty confounds  
the desire for riches,  
greed,  
and the cares of this world.

Holy Humility confounds  
pride,  
all people who are in the world  
and all that is in the world.



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Minister:** Peg Crews peg.crews@gmail.com

**Vice Minister:** Carol Murphy cjmurphy@usa.com

**Secretary:** Eileen Murray eamurray3@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Paul Reardon reardon948@gmail.com

**Formation Director:** Donna Kendall domenica145@gmail.com

**Councilor-at-Large:** Barbara Massey barbmarlin@verizon.net

**Councilor-at-Large:** Cindy Holland cynthia.holland@cox.net

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### A Gentle Reminder. . .

If work, health reasons, or significant family obligations hinder you from attending the gathering, contact our Vice Minister, Carol Murphy at cjmurphy@usa.com and let her know.

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**ST. BONAVENTURE**  
UNIVERSITY

### *From Gospel to Life: Jesus in the New Testament*

Peg Crews and Karen Coulson took a free online course through St. Bonaventure University. The class was held three Saturdays from 12-1:30pm. St. Bonaventure University has many courses offered throughout the year. Why not check them out! <https://www.sbu.edu/>