



April 2024

THE CALL

St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

Meeting – 2:00 pm. - Sunday, April 14, 2024

- We are collecting socks for the homeless.
- *Opening Prayer* – Ritual, p. 35.
- *Ongoing Formation* – We will be discussing Reflection 3 in *To Live as Francis Lived*
- *Fellowship*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Liturgy of the Hours* – Evening Prayer II for the Third Sunday of Easter
 - Psalms from the Psalter Week III
 - Short Reading, Magnificat Antiphon, Intercessions and Closing Prayer from the Proper of Seasons for the Third Sunday of Easter
 - Hymn TBD. Please bring your breviary and hymnal.
- *Closing Prayers* – Ritual, p. 36.

Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqblI4T20rZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Dial by your location

Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041

Passcode: 668951

Minister's Notes

The ongoing series on the responsibilities of the council now turns to the Secretary.

-to compile official acts of the fraternity and assure they are sent to their respective recipients

-to see to updating and preservation of

records and registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths

-to provide for the communication of the more important facts to various levels.

That doesn't sound like much. I have

encountered fraternities while accompanying Randy, who have a separate person handling Web communication (in our case, Zoom) There are also fraternities that maintain a newsletter but delegate that to someone else to generate. One of our problems is we don't have lots of "someone else." Terrence worked hard at delegating those extra things that he did when he was preparing to move to the Baltimore area. In the years since then, some of those tasks have returned to the same people. While I am not physically with you this month, take a moment during the meeting to notice a small task being performed by someone. Is it something you could do or at least help with?

This month we celebrate Easter joy. On April 6, Bishop Burbidge ordained a large class of transitional deacons. They are transitional because, we hope and pray that, they will be ordained priests next Easter season. Did you attend the Chrism Mass and/or the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday? Holy Thursday is a day to especially pray for priests. We celebrate the institution of Holy Orders and of the Blessed Sacrament at the Last Supper. Maybe you didn't make it to

Prayer Intentions

For...

- For the Regional Election on April 20th
- The World Meeting of Parish Priests for the Synod – April 28-May 2, 2024
- Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.
- Peace in Ukraine and protection for her Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy, OFS who is recovering from congestive heart failure.
- Bill Wester, Ann's husband, for successful treatment of his heart ailment.
- Virginia Roccapiore, widow of Joseph Roccapiore, OFS
- For Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, OFS, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

Holy Thursday Mass, but it is never too late to pray for priests. Though our diocese is blessed with a large group this year, we can use more. If you prefer, consider praying for all those parishes that either don't have a resident priest or are so isolated there is only one. Think about that next time you hop to a different parish for confession. Recently, Fr. David, our parochial vicar preached a homily soon after he came back from his father's funeral. When he talked to the rectory about a funeral Mass, the funeral Mass piggybacked on the weekday Mass, allowing the pastor a day off; his first in over two years. It is good to expand our prayer horizons.

At this month's business meeting you will decide which Sunday in May fits most of your schedules for a visit to the Poor Clare Sisters. Those meeting for Rosary, Evening Prayer and Benediction in May should bring donations for the sisters. Afterward, we will reassemble at the Panera just down the road for food and fellowship.

Pax et Bona,
Andrea

- Louis, son of Clarissa, of STM Parish, for depression.
- The sister of a friend of April, who does not want her sister to pray for her
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Religious freedom and for all persecuted for their belief in God.
- Prisoners, sick, poor, hungry, lonely, homeless and those with no one to pray for them.
- The health, protection and guidance of all priests and bishops including Pope Francis.
- The union of all Christians.
- For vocations to all branches of the Franciscan family.

Professions

4/25/82 - Ann Corro (Mary)

Birthdays of the Month

Randy Bender (10th) - April Garcia (16th)

Necrology

Seán O'Reilly - April 19, 1982
Theresa Stephens – April 4, 1989
Alfred E Warren – April 30, 1994
George W Frazier, Jr – April 2000
Mildred M Cate – April 30, 2004
Raymond J Sweeney – April 7, 2014
Julia Anne McKone – April 2, 2018
Dennis E Webb – April 26, 2018

Secretary's Note

Sometimes it is hard not to repeat things when composing The Call, but last year I had a feature on Blessed Luchesius of Poggibonsi. His memorial is on April 28th. He and his wife, Buonadonna are traditionally considered the first Third Order Franciscans. We look often to Saint Francis and Saint Clare on how to follow Christ, but it is also good to look at the Secular Franciscan Saints to see examples of ways and struggles of living the Franciscan ideal in secular life. I know that I find myself reflecting on how radically my life has or has not changed since my profession.

Lord God,
You made blessed Luchesius
whom you called to repentance illustrious
in performing works of piety and charity.
Through his prayers and example
may we bring forth worthy fruits of penance
and always abound in good works.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.
*(from the Proper Offices of Franciscan Saints and
Blesseds in the Liturgy of the Hours)*

Above, right is a prayer that Pope Francis offered at the Chapel of the Stigmata on Mount La Verna recalling the 800th anniversary of St. Francis receiving the Stigmata.

Have you registered for the Chapter of Mats on September 6-8, 2024? The Fraternity will subsidize, any member who asks, the difference

Saint Francis,
man wounded by love, Crucified in body and in spirit,
we look to you, decorated with the holy stigmata,
to learn how to love the Lord Jesus
and our brothers and sisters with your love,
with your passion.
With you, it is easier to contemplate and follow Christ,
poor and Crucified.
Give us, Francis,
the freshness of your faith,
the certainty of your hope,
the gentleness of your charity.
Intercede for us,
so that it may be sweet for us to bear the burdens of life,
and in trials, we may experience
the tenderness of the Father and the balm of the Spirit.
May our wounds be healed by the Heart of Christ,
to become, like you, witnesses of His mercy,
which continues to heal and renew the life
of those who seek Him with a sincere heart.
O Francis, made to resemble the Crucified One,
let your stigmata be for us and for the world
resplendent signs of life and resurrection,
to show new ways of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

Prayer of Pope Francis at the Chapel of the Stigmata in La Verna, Italy

between the registration fee and
the actual cost. Please contact Andrea if you
want the subsidy and please register before the
end of April to obtain the early bird rate.

Registration info is available on Page 5. You can
also contact Sita or myself if you have any
questions.

The 2024Mats Planning Committee would like all
Seculars in the Region to pray for the success of
this chapter and our prayer for the Chapter of
Mats is on page 4.

Sita is performing with the Northern VA Recorder
Society on Saturday, April 13th, at 3pm at
Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling
Rd, W Springfield. It's free, and there will be a
reception afterwards.

Peace and Good, Randy

PRAYER FOR THE ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL CHAPTER OF MATS

September 6-8, 2024

Most high and glorious God,
we ask for your blessing
upon our upcoming Chapter of Mats.

We thank you for our call to live the Gospel
following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis.

We thank you for those who have gone before us,
who preserved our charism throughout the centuries.

We thank you for our current leaders,
who serve us and help us to grow in our understanding of our vocation.

And we thank you for future leaders,
the shepherds that are to come.

We ask you to send down your Holy Spirit upon us as we journey toward
our 2024 Chapter of Mats.

Prepare all of us, Lord, as we ask
for fraternal Love to love as you love;
Humility to listen to one another;
Wisdom to see the future you would have us build;
Courage to follow your direction; and
Grace to spread seeds of goodness and joy throughout our time at Chapter and beyond.

Lord, as we anticipate coming together to celebrate
Where we were, where we are, and where we are called to be
as Secular Franciscans,
let us remember to see and treat all
“...as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.”¹

And so we pray,
Holy God, draw us together as a community,
take charge of our Chapter of Mats,
and lead us into the future.

Father, we adore you and give you all praise, honor, and glory,
Through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
In union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

¹ OFS Rule, Article 13

St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 OFS Chapter of Mats

The Next 800 Years, where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going.

How are we as Secular Franciscans poised to bring Christ to our world?

What unique gifts do we have to offer?

WE NEED YOU!

First, to be there! But to make our upcoming OFS Chapter of Mats memorable, we wish to include fraternity members willing to share their talents in the planning by working with the subcommittees. Please indicate on the registration form the subcommittee(s) for which you would like to volunteer:

- Program
- Liturgy and Environment
- Publicity
- Access
- Registration and Welcome
- Social
- Onsite volunteer (usher, guide, etc.)

Registration is NOW OPEN for our September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats to be held at the beautiful Claggett Center in Adamstown, Maryland.

Deadlines:

Early-bird discount	Submit online registration form	Due by April 30, 2024
Non-Refundable Deposit	\$150.00	Due by June 1, 2024
Full remaining balance	Based on housing selection	Due by Aug. 1, 2024

Note: See payment options below. After August 1, all reservations are final and non-refundable.

Housing Options include single and double hotel-like rooms with private baths in the [Christiane Inn](#), in close proximity to the dining room and meeting rooms. Accommodation is also available in cottages, downhill from the dining and meeting space. [Cottages](#) have two twin beds per room and shared baths down the hall.

Event Costs:

All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) and registration fees are included in the cost of the rooms. The lodging cost is based on the type of housing selected from the options below. There are no additional fees.

- Inn – single room/1 queen bed for 1 person (\$265 by April 30/\$315 after May 1)
- Inn – 2nd person in single room/1 queen bed for 2 persons (\$208 per person by April 30/\$235 per person after May 1) – must designate roommate!
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for 2 persons (\$225 per person by April 30/\$275 per person after May 1) – roommate may be designated or assigned
- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for three persons (\$200 per person by April 30/\$230 per person after May 1) – must designate roommates!

- Inn – double room/2 queen beds for four persons (\$188 per person by April 30/\$210 per person after May 1) – must designate roommates
- Cottage – two twin beds per room for 2 persons (\$185 per person by April 30/\$235 per person after May 1) – roommate may be designated or assigned (no single rooms in cottages)

PLEASE NOTE: Single rooms are limited and available on a 1st come, 1st served basis. If you want a single room, or to reserve any other room of your choice, we encourage you to register and **pay the \$150 deposit ASAP.**

Payment Options: Payment can be made via check or credit card (subject to 3.5% fee).

- Checks should be made payable to [Margaret of Cortona Region](#), and mailed to [Peter Noyes, 1904 Atkisson Road, Joppa, MD 21085-1811](#).
- If you wish to pay by credit card (with an additional 3.5% fee), mark that box on the registration form and you will receive an invoice and payment instructions from Peter Noyes.

To enhance the participation of all our brothers and sisters, **disability** and **dietary accommodations**, and **language interpretation/translation** will be available throughout the Chapter of Mats. Please indicate your requests on the registration form.

Click <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Registration-for-Mats-2024-.pdf> for the fillable form to register. If you have any questions or need help with registering, email Peter Noyes at pnoyesofs@gmail.com and to Janice Benton at jbentonsfo@gmail.com.

NOTE: Please indicate on the form whether you are paying by check or credit card. (Reminder: credit cards are subject to a 3.5% fee)

Click on the 2024 Chapter of Mats Flyer for more info:

<https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-Chapter-of-Mats-Flyer.pdf>

Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

April 1

Bl. Henry Alfieri of Asti, Vicar General and Minister of the Order of Friars Minor (1315-1405)
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0401-25.htm>

April 2

Bl. Elisabetta Vendramini, Foundress, Third Order Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary
 (April 9, 1790-April 2, 1860)
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/vendramini-elisabetta-bl>
 St. Francis of Paola, Founder, Order of Minims (March 27, 1416-April 2, 1507)
<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0402-20.htm>

April 3

St. Luigi Scrosoppi of Udine, Priest, Third Order Secular (August 4, 1804-April 3, 1884)
<https://catholicsaints.info/saint-luigi-scrosoppi-of-udine/>

- April 4
St. Benedict Larcari (the Moor) of San Fratello, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (1526-April 4, 1589)
<https://catholicreadings.org/saint-benedict-the-black-saint-of-the-day-april-4/>
- April 7
Bl. Maria Assunta Pallotta, Third Order Regular (August 20, 1878-April 7, 1905)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Assunta_Pallotta
- April 8
Bl. Julian of St. Augustine, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1550-April 8, 1606)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-julian-of-saint-augustine.html>
- April 9
Bl. Thomas of Tolentino and Companions, Priest, Martyrs of India, Order of Friars Minor (Fr. James of Padua, Br. Demetrius of Tiflis, Fr. Peter of Siena) (d. 1321)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/thomas-of-tolentino-and-companions.html>
- April 10
Bl. Boniface Zukowski, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual, Martyr (January 13, 1913-April 10, 1942)
<http://catholicsaints.info/blessed-boniface-zukowski/>
- April 11
Bl. Angelo of Chivasso, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (1411-1495)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-angelo-of-chivasso.html>
- April 15
Bl. Gandolph of Binasco, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. April 3, 1260)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gandolph.html>
- April 16
St. Benedict Joseph Labré, Third Order Secular, Cordbearer (March 15, 1748-April 16, 1783)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedict_Joseph_Labre
- April 18
Bl. Andre Hibernon, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (1534-April 18, 1602)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-andrew-of-hibernon.html>
Bl. James Oldo, Priest, Secular Franciscan Order (1364–April 18, 1404)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-james-oldo.html>
- April 19
Bl. Conrad of Ascoli, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (1234-April 19, 1289)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-conrad-of-ascoli.html>
- April 21
St. Conrad of Parzham, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (December 22, 1818-April 21, 1894)
<http://www.salvemariaregina.info/Martyrologies/Konrad.html>
- April 22
Bl. Francis of Fabriano, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (September 2, 1251-April 22, 1322)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_of_Fabriano
- April 23
Bl. Giles of Assisi, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (c.1190-April 23, 1262)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-giles-of-assis.html>
- April 24
St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Capuchin Priest, Protomartyr of the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith (1577-April 24, 1622)
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-fidelis-of-sigmaringen>
- April 25
St. Pedro de San Jose Betancur, Third Order Secular, Founder (March 21, 1626-April 25, 1667)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_of_Saint_Joseph_de_Betancur

- April 27
St. Zita of Luca, Secular Franciscan (ca. 1212-April 27, 1272)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-zita.html>
- April 28
Bl. Luchesius and Buonadonna. First Third Order Secular Franciscans (both died April 28, 1260)
<https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/catholic/saints/l/luchesio-and-buonadonna.aspx>
- April 29
Bl. Benedict of Urbino, Priest, Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (d. 1625)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/benedict-of-urbino.html>
- April 30
St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, Third Order Secular, Founder (May 3, 1786-April 30, 1842)
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-joseph-benedict-cottolengo.html>
- May 1
St. Riccardo Pampuri, Confessor, was a tertiary before joining another religious institute (August 2, 1897-March 1, 1930)
https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_19891101_pampuri_en.html
Bl. Vivaldo of San Gimignano, Franciscan Friar, Hermit (1260-1320)
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0501-30.htm>
- May 3
Bl. Edward Joseph Rosaz, Priest, Founder, Third Order Secular and Regular (February 15, 1830-May 3, 1903)
<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0504-23.htm>
- May 4
Bl. Thomas Bullaker, Bl. Henry Heath, Bl. Arthur Bell, Bl. John Woodcock, and Bl. Charles Meehan Franciscan Martyrs of England and Wales, First Order
<http://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0504-34.htm>
Bl. Ladislav de Gielniow, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (c. 1440-May 4, 1505)
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-ladislav-of-gielniow.html>
Bl. Ceferino Giménez Malla, Third Order Secular, Martyr, First Gypsy to be declared Blessed (August 26, 1861-August 8, 1936)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceferino_Gim%C3%A9nez_Malla
Bl. Tommaso da Olera, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (1563-May 3, 1631)
<https://anastpaul.com/2020/05/04/saint-of-the-day-4-may-blessed-tommaso-da-olera-ofm-cap-1563-1631/>
- May 5
Bl. Benvenuto Mareni, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual (d. May 5, 1269)
<http://catholicsaints.info/blessed-benvenuto-mareni/>
- May 6
Bl. Anne-Rose Gattorno Founder, Franciscan Third Order Regular (October 14, 1831-May 6, 1900)
https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20000409_beat-Gattorno_en.html
Bl. Catherine Troiani, Third Order Regular, Missionary (1813-May 6, 1887)
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=7113
- May 7
Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, Order of Friars Minor, First Minister Provincial in England (1195-1236)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnellus_of_Pisa
- May 8
St. Amato Ronconi, Third Order Secular (c. 1225-May 8, 1292)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amato_Ronconi