



The Little Flower Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

St. Margaret of Cortona Region

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

February 17, 2024

*Note that just for this month the meeting is the
3rd Saturday (due to scheduling conflict with use
of the hall)*

Sisters and brothers in Jesus and Francis,

What's the solution to "head knowledge faith"?

In the Secular Franciscan Order there are three answers to this question - formation, formation, and formation. Once we have completed initial formation during the candidacy period and entered into the professed life formation remains one of the most important parts of our growth in Jesus Christ, his Mystical Body the Church, and our Franciscan vocation and fraternal life.

Each day we commit ourselves to read the Word, to study the Word, to meditate on the Word, and to confess the Word with the expectation that in the presence of God we will come to live the Word and to become more and more like the Word. However, it takes time, patience, and work to come to believe what God says in the face of everyday obstacles and the ugliness of so much of the world today. This is why it is so very important to make sure, as our Seraphic Father Francis did, that the Word goes from the mental realm to the depths of our hearts.

As a matter of fact, we know that the difference between victory and defeat in the Catholic Christian life is the eighteen inches between our head and our heart. Ask yourself, do I just mentally agree with the Word, or is the Word planted in my heart? The answer to that question determines whether or not the Word will work for you.

As long as we live in this world, problems are going to come regardless of our Franciscan maturity. That's all the more reason to do what God said: "Go to the Word." Grasp it, believe it, and then watch the Word go into action. God watches over His Word to perform it! (Jer. 1:12.)

Saint Francis of Assisi was "the real deal," and then and now his integrity attracts followers to the Lord. People who came in contact with Francis found personal strengths they had not sufficiently appreciated. How can we become humble, "real deals"? Our way - ever constant formation within ourselves and within our fraternity under the guidance of the Word made flesh who dwells among us.

Let us pray. Lord God, I renew my mind with the Your Word and think Your thoughts guided by the Holy Spirit. Your Word is planted and rooted deep inside my heart. No matter what obstacles I face, I believe Your Word is living and true, and He whom You sent changes my life. Amen.

Please join your sisters and brothers at our fraternity gatherings. Our Fraternity Gathering in February is moved to February 17. Please make note of this date change.

Preparation for the On-Going formation- read This Is My Body, The Sacred Meal in the Life and Ministry of Jesus, pages 11-26.

Here is our plan for our February 17, 2024 Fraternity gathering:

- 9:00AM Holy Mass in SFA Church (optional) or
social time in Burke Hall
- 10:00 Opening Ritual Prayer
- 10:10 Announcements & Business
- 10:15 Liturgy of the Hours
- 10:30 Fr. Bart's Franciscan Spiritual Assistance
- 11:00 Social Time
- 11:25 This Is My Body, Review & Discussion,
Facilitator - Al Gigel, OFS
- 11:55 Closing Ritual Prayer
- 12:00 Go in Peace

The Lord gives us peace, spreading it is our vocation.

In the joy of Jesus, I am

Phillip Francis Pucher, OFS
Minister



Retreat...Reconnect

Opportunities for spiritual growth and/through community service



Upcoming Conferences:

Saturday, February 24, 2024, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates

Topic: Living a Penitential Life presented by Fr. Stephen King
Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, DC

Cost: \$50.00 (includes lunch)

Regional Conference for Formators May 24-26, 2024

Washington Retreat House, Washington, DC

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

*This retreat is geared primarily to reach
formators and council members.

THERE WILL NOT BE A REGIONAL CONFERENCE THIS YEAR IN
THE SUMMER. IN ITS PLACE THE CHAPTER OF MATS IS OPEN
TO ALL FRATERNITY MEMBERS.

Chapter of Mats **SAVE THE DATE**

September 6-8, 2024

Claggett Center, Adamstown, MD

(Details to Follow)

Secular Franciscan Pilgrimage: June 16-28, 2024

<https://www.franciscanpilgrimages.com/product/secular-franciscan-pilgrimage-to-assisi-and-rome-june-16-28-2024/#>

Phone: 414-427-0570

February Reflection:

REFLECTION FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

"I eat ashes like bread, mingle my drink
with tears." PSALM 102:10

*What sorrows haunt you, bringing you ashes
and tears? Make an effort to stay attuned to the
pain in your life and the woundedness of our
world. Only then can compassion grow in you.*

"Therefore I... repent in dust
and ashes." JOB 42:6

*In being publically marked
with ashes, we acknowledge
the damage we do to others and
ourselves. What repentance will
you take on this Lent so as to
rise out of the dust and ashes of
regret and despair?*

"The Spirit of the LORD GOD is
upon me... to place on those
who mourn in Zion a diadem
instead of ashes. To give them oil
of gladness instead of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a
faint spirit." ISAIAH 61:1,3

*The movement from Ash Wednesday
to Easter Sunday is one of ashes to
oil, symbol of healing and gladness.
This Lent, how will you assume the
healing vocation of all humans,
in concert with the Holy Spirit, in
order to bring restoration to our
wounded world?*

NEWS

Linda Herilla will be making her profession in April. Be sure to make every effort to be with her on this most special day!!!!

Also, the ongoing formation for this year will continue using the book, This is My Body by Bishop Barron. Please read pages 11-26 for the meeting this month. Be ready to discuss this information and/or to ask questions if needed.

Inspiration for the month (provided via Dennis Bernardo)

God is love...love never fails,
Love always finds a way!
When you face the storms of life
Don't run the other way.
Keep your faith, act on it
As you begin to pray:
Now get ready for a miracle
And let God make your day!

Millie Torzilli

ADORATION OPPORTUNITY

Our Lady of Victory has Mass followed by Adoration Mon.-Thurs. at 8 AM,
Communion service followed by Adoration on Fridays at 8AM
Mass followed by Adoration on Tuesdays at 7 PM

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.*

Fr. Bart Phil Pucher Mike Huether Bob Curry and family

Helen and John Tuminello Cass Chrazanowski

*Joanna Dudek (Cindy Evan's Mother) – May she rest in
peace, and may her family find healing and comfort.*

Cindy Evans (post operative healing) Barbara Bruno

Fr. Joachim Giermck OFM (May he rest in peace)

Pope's intention for February: The terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive
the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Birthday Celebrants

Barbara Bruno February 11

Profession Anniversaries:

Maria Mercaldo 2/27/2005

Frank Passaro 2/27/2005

Deceased Member Anniversaries: None

Treasurer's Report:

** Beginning Balance 12/31/23	\$1,530.07
Income	624.00
Expenses	
Check Balance 1/31/24	\$2,154.07

** Correction from the January Newsletter

Please make ALL checks – Common fund as well as monthly charity,
payable to: LITTLE FLOWER FRATERNITY

Also, 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.

Mail checks to

Stas Chrazanowski
2772 Lighthouse Point E, #310
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Little Flower Fraternity Council

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