



*The Little Flower Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order*

*St. Margaret of Cortona Region*

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

*March 9, 2024*

Sisters and brothers of Penance and Reconciliation,

The grace and peace of God the Father, the love of Jesus, the Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.” ~ Luke 6:37–38

Jesus reserved his harshest words in the Gospels for those who thought they were spiritually superior to others. Francis, too, recognized that this failing threatened those who had given up everything to follow him in his Gospel commitment to a life of poverty, prayer, and penance.

He emphasized to his followers that they were to examine their own lives rather than pointing fingers at others. He said in his Rule of 1223: “I warn all the friars and exhort them not to condemn or look down on people whom they see wearing soft or gaudy clothes and enjoying luxuries in food or drink; each one should rather condemn and despise himself.” His message resonates to us today 800 plus years later.

We will always encounter people who are better than we are and worse than we are on nearly every human, social, and spiritual level. If we begin making comparisons, soon we will be making judgments, about them and about ourselves. In doing so, we quickly lose sight of who we are: unique individuals created and loved by God for ourselves, not on some cosmic grading curve. Let us pray always for the conversion and forgiveness, firstly, for "the sinner I am" and then for all sinners and leave the judgements to God.

As Francis was dying he lay there on the ground, stripped of his poor habit, he raised his eyes to heaven, as his custom was, and was lost in the contemplation of its glory. He covered the wound in his right side with his left hand, to prevent it being seen, and he said to the friars, "I have done what was mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours." (Bonaventure, Major Life of St. Francis, XIV, 3)

Our Secular Franciscan Order Rule calls each of us, guided and inspired by God, to contribute to the life of the Fraternity and our spiritual growth in our Franciscan vocation by holy stewardship by the giving of our time, talent, and treasure.

Our time, attending fraternity gatherings and activities such as days of prayer and reflection, retreats, and special gatherings at the fraternity at the local and regional levels to the best of our ability, and contacting and visiting sick and excused members of the Fraternity to help them feel connected to the fraternity. What else could we add to this list? How willing are you to contribute of your time?

Our talent, participating in the activities and prayer life of the fraternity by accepting roles such as reader, antiphonarian, and presider in praying the Liturgy of the Hours, assisting at Holy Mass, willingness to facilitate formation teachings at gatherings or retreats, leading in singing, spreading the word about the benefits of the OFS vocation and inviting family, friends, fellow workers and fellow parishoners to attend a gathering, carpooling members to gatherings, and helping set up and clean up Burke Hall before and after gatherings. What else could we add to this list? How willing are you to contribute of your talent?

Our treasure, assisting the fraternity financially so that we together can support those in need by our charitable giving, and meet our fixed financial obligations at the local and regional levels of the Order. We follow our Lord and Savior's advice in the Gospel event of the widow's mite to give sacrificially from your means. I have always loved the statement of Fr. John Sennett Martin, of blessed memory, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church, "If all you can honestly give is a penny, give the penny. It is enough." What else could we add to this list? How willing are you to contribute of your treasure?

The February gathering cancelation due to the snow storm, which thankfully wasn't as harsh as predicted, robbed us of our family time together. So please join your sisters and brothers at our next Fraternity gathering on Saturday, March 9, 2024.

The preparation for the On-Going formation remains the same - read Bishop Robert Barron's, *This Is My Body, The Sacred Meal in the Life and Ministry of Jesus*, pages 11-26.

Here is our plan for our March 9, 2024 Fraternity gathering:

09:00AM Holy Mass in SFA Church (optional)

09:00 Gathering & 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 Direction  
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, living it and spreading it is our vocation. As we continue our Lenten journey with Jesus, we pray to flourish in faith, hope, and love.

Peace and all good,

Phillip Francis Pucher, OFS  
Servant Minister

PS: We will have coffee, tea, and a sweet roll of some kind at our social time.

Please remember to bring something for the food pantry if possible.

**ATTENTION EVERYONE !!!**

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



## Retreat...Reconnect

Opportunities for spiritual growth and/through community service



Regional Conference for Formators June 24-26, 2024

Washington Retreat House, Washington, DC

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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

Note: The conference is in June, not May – Sorry!!

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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.

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Chapter of Mats **SAVE THE DATE**

September 6-8, 2024

Claggett Center, Adamstown, MD

(Details to Follow)

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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

## March Reflection: From “The Way of St. Joseph” Regnum Christi

A bit more than a week before Easter we will celebrate St. Joseph’s Day, March 19. Let us not forget this wonderful man, who though he was not present at the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, was instrumental in developing the human attributes of Jesus during His formative years.

### “St. Joseph

Throughout His public ministry, Jesus was referred to as “the carpenter’s son” or the “son of Joseph.” Joseph, the righteous man, lives on in His foster Son. Even more, he lives through the Son to become the father of the universal Church and its protector. Salvation history is not advanced by power, politics, leadership, or money. It is righteous men and women, the saints, who leave a legacy that changes the world and moves history towards its fulfillment.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus told parables and used powerful images to convey the good News. How many of those images did He pick up from Joseph?

Was the father in the parable of the prodigal son modelled after the good Joseph?

Jesus spoke with firm authority, not like the scribes and Pharisees. Did He not gain some of that confidence from His foster father?

Jesus introduced a new respect for women and their role in God’s plan. Joseph must have conveyed that to Him through his treatment of Mary.

Every attitude and action of Jesus reflects something of Saint Joseph, and the foster son is Joseph’s greatest legacy.

So let us pray to him:

Saint Joseph, your legacy carries on in the Church, the Body of Christ in this world. It continues in every man and woman who exhibits the fortitude to resist fear, overcome evil with good, and carry out their responsibilities with love. Grant that at the end of my life, I may leave a legacy of life, love, faith, and righteousness, so that I may enter into eternal life with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

# NEWS

## Inspiration for the month (provided by Dennis Bernardo)

### Springtime Splendor

Springtime dances in her fullest splendor-  
Just glance around most everywhere...  
Forsythia's blossom a bright, bold yellow  
And snowy-white lilies return so soft and fair.  
Green becomes the color of earth's blanket  
As white slowly dissipates,  
For the seasons arrive in perfect timing  
As God plans-not too soon or late!  
Warblers are heard chirping their tunes  
As nests of tiny newborns suddenly appear,  
For rebirth and resurrection  
Make springtime shine so precious and dear.  
There's a sense of joy and wonderment  
As we view her long-awaited garb of loveliness.  
The daffodils, tulips, and irises,  
Assure us Winter's white we will not miss.  
Cherish Spring and bow in humble thanks  
As sweet aromas filtrate the air.  
Fly a March kite, take a short, woodland hike,  
Toss off that wintry cloak of chills and care!

Linda C. Grazulis

## **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 Brigid O'Keefe (Kelly's friend) Kathleen Hale*

*Sharon Cosgray (R.I.P.) Jerry Pasta and Mike Zorn (Phil's friends)*

## Pope's intention for March: The new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

## **Birthday Celebrants**

**Cathy Via March 11**

**Gary Haigley March 14**

## **Profession Anniversaries:**

**Maureen Korzelius 3/21/1965**

## **Deceased Member Anniversaries: None**

## **Treasurer's Report:**

** Beginning Balance 1/31/24	\$1,530.07
Income	674.00
Total (2/20/24)	2,204.07
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Expenses	
St. Francis of Assisi hall rental	100.00
Fr. Bart (quarterly stipend, Jan. thru March)	150.00
Fr. Guy (quarterly support for school)	150.00
FFA#418 Quarterly donation	225.00
Total	\$625.00
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Balance in account -2/24/24	\$1,579.07

**STAS IS STEPPING DOWN AS OUR TREASURER FOR HE WILL BE MOVING TO BERLIN, SO PLEASE MAIL CHECKS TO PHIL !**

**MANY THANKS TO STAS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE ROLE OF TREASURER THIS PAST YEAR!!!**

**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

Phil Pucher, OFS  
2407 Mayfield Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21213

### **Little Flower Fraternity Council**

Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Bart Karwacki, OFM Conventual

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