



February 2024

## **THE CALL**

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

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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 - 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, February 11, 2024**

- Opening Prayer – Ritual, p. 35.
- Ongoing Formation – Jan Martin, OFS will lead discussion on Reflection 2 starting on p. 6 in *To Live as Francis Lived*,
- Business Meeting
- Liturgy of the Hours – Volunteers Needed!
  - Evening Prayer II for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
  - Hymn* - TBD (Please bring your hymnal and breviary)
  - Psalms/ Short Reading/Intercessions* – Sunday Evening Prayer II from Week II of the Psalter
  - Antiphon for the Magnificat/Closing Prayer* – Proper of Seasons
- 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**

For months I have been promising that I would outline **job descriptions** for elected officers in 2024. Today I finally begin with what a minister does.

The minister leads the council (calls meetings,

chairs meetings)

The council decides on admission and acceptance to profession/ establishes fraternal dialogue with members in difficulties/receives requests for

withdrawal/decides distribution of available funds.

The minister tries to make sure the decisions of the council are put into practice. The minister prepares the annual report to the regional council, attends regional elections and an annual ministers meeting (Sat. in Nov.), or delegates someone to represent the fraternity.

**Ongoing formation** - We continue “to live as Francis lived” this month. Once again, I will have copies available for sale, \$19, at the fraternity meeting. Reflection 2 starts on page 6. Jan will also speak with us about someone she feels lived as Francis lived. We are looking for volunteers to report on a favorite saint or saintly person. Who would like to share in March?

**Liturgy of the Hours** - We need volunteers to lead and lector. The leader starts the Hour with the opening verse (“God come to my assistance...), read the antiphon before the psalms and start the first verse, the Our Father and the closing prayer. The lector reads the short reading and leads the responsory, reads the antiphon for the Magnificat and lead the intercessions. These roles can shift a bit, but this delineation reduces the number of times the microphone needs to be handed off.

**In-Kind Donations** - Ann Wester replied to my request for someone to deliver towels to the

### **Professions**

February 11, 2001

Anne-Marie Pastorkovich (Jeanne d’Arc)

### **Birthdays of the Month**

Ann Corro (5th)

Kully Dooley (14th)

Lamb Center. We will collect towels for the homeless at the March fraternity meeting. Thank you, Ann.

Also, in April will be the **Regional Elections**. The slate is not yet complete. Anyone interested can see Randy for more information (or avoid Randy during fellowship if you don’t want to be asked to run.)

### **Chapter of Mats** (September 6-8, 2024) -

Unlike early Franciscans, we aren’t asked to attend bringing our sleeping mats and sleep in a field. We are asked to register early. After many meetings, tweaks etc. the registration form is available. Prices include a donation from the regional council to defray expenses. The council is available to help further with funds from the fraternity. We ask members to pay the deposit with their own funds, then approach the council for assistance with the remainder as needed.

**Lent** - Randy reminded me this week that we should be planning for Lent. (I think he was grasping for a topic of conversation that wasn’t grandkids or Scouts). Regardless of why, the topic came up, it is a good one. What are you doing or doing without this Lent? How will that help you draw closer to Christ or prepare for Easter?

Pax et Bonum, Andrea

### **Necrology**

Dcn. James F Ambury, MD (Min.) – Feb. 7, 2005

Kathleen Kuhn – Feb. 2008

M Richard McKone – Feb. 3, 2009

Maria Cassidy – February 11, 2023

## Prayer Intentions

For...

- Patricia Kennedy, mother of Joseph Kennedy who in rehab for congestive heart failure.
- Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East and the victims of the violence.
- Bill Wester, Ann's husband, for successful treatment of his heart ailment.
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- Virginia Roccapiore, widow of Joseph Roccapiore, OFS
- The repose of the soul of Florence Burkhardt, cousin of Elizabeth Shaeffer
- For Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- 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 repose of the soul of the mother and aunt of Hilia Elizabeth Lewis and her consolation, friend of Ralph Palasek's family
- Peace in Ukraine and protection for Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics there.
- The Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Those with no one to pray for them.
- Religious freedom and all persecuted for their belief in God.
- The poor, hungry, and homeless.
- The health, protection and guidance of all priests and bishops including Pope Francis.
- The victims of the earthquake a year ago in Turkey who still need housing.

## Secretary's Notes

Andrea was talking about my participation on the nominating committee for the St. Margaret of Cortona Regional elections, but Sita and I are also on the planning committee for the upcoming Chapter of Mats. This is an important gathering of as many of us Secular Franciscans as possible to pray and discuss the state of our order. We will gather in September, a few months after the election of a new council. So, part of the purpose of a Chapter of Mats is to give guidance to the regional council in fraternal discussion and charity. The description of and registration info for the Chapter of Mats is on

## Prayer for a Vibrant Franciscan Family

Our family will be vibrant,

*if I bring light and energy.*

Our family will be friendly,

*if I am.*

Our family will be holy,

*if I continue to strive for holiness.*

Our family will do great work for justice, peace, and creation,

*if I do what I can for our world.*

Our family will be prayerful,

*if I pray.*

It will thrive with a spirit of giving,

*if I am a generous giver.*

Our family will bring others to follow Christ,

*if I witness a gospel life.*

Our family will be a fraternity of love, joy, forgiveness, compassion, and charity,

*if I live these same virtues.*

Our family will accomplish God's will,

*if I help by carry the load by sharing my time talent and treasure.*

With Your help, dear Lord, and that of my Franciscan brothers and sisters, I renew my promise to "being" a Franciscan, and to practice all the things that I want my Franciscan Family to be. *Amen*

From the *Franciscan Family Forum*

pages 4 and 5. Please contact Sita or me if you have any questions.

On page 8 is a short history of the Prayer of St. Francis from the NAFRA website: <https://www.secularfranciscusa.org> Thank you to Jan Martin for finding the Prayer for a Vibrant Franciscan Family.

Peace and Good,  
Randy

**St. Margaret of Cortona  
2024 OFS Chapter of Mats**

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for our **September 6-8, 2024 Chapter of Mats** to be held at the beautiful **Claggett Center** in Adamstown, Maryland. Under the theme of The Next 800 Years, we will explore 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?**

**Register between NOW and APRIL 30 to receive the early-bird rate.**

This discount is a gift from the region to assist you in participating in the Chapter of Mats

**Deadlines:**

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

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. Accommodations are 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.

**WE NEED YOU!**

To make our upcoming OFS Chapter of Mats memorable, we wish to include in the planning fraternity members willing to share their talents by working with the subcommittees in the various capacities listed below. 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.)

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

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

Click on the **2024 Chapter of Mats Flyer** to share with your fraternity members: <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>

February 3

Bl. Andrew of Segni, First Order Lay Brother (1240-February 1, 1302)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-andrew-of-segni/>

February 4

St. Joseph de Leonisse, Priest, First Order Capuchin (January 8, 1556-February 4, 1612)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-joseph-of-leonisse.html>

February 5

St. Jane of Valois, Founder, Franciscan Order of the Annonciades (1464-1505)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-jane-of-valois.html>

February 6

Martyrs of Japan, First Order Priests, Lay Brothers, and Third Order Secular (m. 1597)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0206-468.htm>

February 7

St. Giles Mary of St. Joseph, Lay Brother, Martyrs, Order of Friars Minor  
(November 16, 1729–February 7, 1812)

<https://stevenwood.com/reflections/franciscan/0208-49.htm>

Bl. Pope Pius IX, Pope, Third Order Secular (May 13, 1792-February 7, 1878)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12134b.htm>

St. Giovanni of Triora, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Martyr (March 15, 1760, February 7, 1816)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-triora.html>

February 8

Bl. Anthony of Stroncone, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor (1391-February 7, 1471)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-anthony-of-stroncone.html>

Bl. Jacoba de Settesoli, Third Order Secular (1190-February 8, 1273)

<https://franciscans.sg/blessed-lady-jacoba-of-settesoli-1190-1273/>

February 9

Bl. Leopold of Alpandere, Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin (June 25, 1864- February 9, 1956)

[https://www.capuchin.org/saints\\_blessed/leopold-of-alpandere/](https://www.capuchin.org/saints_blessed/leopold-of-alpandere/)

February 10

Bl. Aloysius Stepinac, Bishop, Martyr, Third Order Secular (May 8, 1898 – February 10, 1960)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aloysius\\_Stepinac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aloysius_Stepinac)

Bl. Clare of Rimini, Poor Clare (1282-February 10, 1346)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-clare-of-rimini.html>

February 13

St. Eustochium of Messine, Poor Clare Nun (March 25, 1434 - January 20, 1485)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-eustochium.html>

February 15

Translation of the Relics of St. Anthony

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/relics-of-st-anthony.html>

February 16

Bl. Philippa Mareri, Poor Clare Nun, (1190/1200-1236)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-philippa-mareri.html>

St. Veridiana, Virgin, Third Order Secular (1182-1242)

<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-veridiana.html>

February 17

Bl. Luke Belludi, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (1200-c. 1285)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-luke-belludi.html>

- February 18  
St. Bernadette Soubirous, Cordbearer (January 7, 1844-April 16, 1879)  
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-bernadette-soubirous.html>
- February 19  
St. Conrad de Plaisance, Hermit, Third Order Secular, (d. February 19, 1351)  
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-conrad-de-plaisance.html>
- February 20  
Bl. Peter of Treja, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. November 20, 1304)  
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-of-treja.html>
- February 22  
Feast of the Chair of St. Peter  
<https://mcgrathblog.nd.edu/the-feast-of-the-chair-of-st.-peter-and-how-to-observe-it>
- February 25  
Bl. Sebastian of Aparicio, Lay Brother, Order of Friars Minor (January 20, 1502-February 25, 1600)  
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-sebastian-of-aparicio.html>
- February 26  
Bl. Antonia of Florence, Third Order Secular (1400-February 29, 1472)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-antonia-of-florence.html>  
Bl. Isabelle of France, Virgin, Poor Clare (March 1224- February 23, 1270)  
[https://www.traditioninaction.org/SOD/j236sd\\_IsabelleFrance\\_01\\_25.html](https://www.traditioninaction.org/SOD/j236sd_IsabelleFrance_01_25.html)
- February 27  
Bl. Jeremiah of Vallachia, Lay Brother Capuchin Friars (1556-1625)  
[https://www.capuchin.org/saints\\_blessed/blessed-jeremiah-of-valacchia/](https://www.capuchin.org/saints_blessed/blessed-jeremiah-of-valacchia/)  
Bl. Jose Tous y Soler, Priest, First Order Capuchin (March 31, 1811-February 27, 1871)  
[https://www.capuchin.org/saints\\_blessed/jose-tous-y-soler/](https://www.capuchin.org/saints_blessed/jose-tous-y-soler/)  
Bl. Louise Albertoni, Third Order Secular (1533)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-louise-albertoni.html>
- March 2  
St. Agnes of Prague, Virgin, Poor Clare (1205-March 6, 1282)  
<https://catholicsaints.info/saint-agnes-of-prague/>
- March 3  
Bls. Liberatus Weiss, Samuele Marzorati and Michele Pio Fasoli, Martyrs of Gondar, Ethiopia, Priests, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1716)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes\\_Laurentius\\_Weiss\\_and\\_companions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Laurentius_Weiss_and_companions)  
Bl. Innocent of Berzo, Priest, First Order Capuchin (March 19, 1844-March 3, 1890)  
<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/blessed-innocenzo-da-berzo/>
- March 5  
St. John-Joseph of the Cross, Priest, Alcantarine Franciscan (August 15, 1654-March 5, 1839)  
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-joseph-of-the-cross/>
- March 6  
St. Colette de Corbie, Foundress: Colettine Poor Clares (February 13, 1381-March 6, 1447)  
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-colette-de-corbie.html>
- March 7  
Bl. Christopher of Milan, Priest, First Order Franciscan (d. 1485)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-christopher-of-milan.html>
- March 9  
St. Catherine of Bologna, Poor Clare Sister (September 8, 1413-March 9, 1463)  
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-catherine-of-bologna/>  
St. Frances of Rome, Franciscan Third Order Secular, Oblates of St. Benedict (1384-March 9, 1440)  
<http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-frances-of-rome.html>

## Original Text of the Peace Prayer of St. Francis

*Belle prière à faire pendant la Messe*

*Seigneur, faites de moi un instrument de votre paix.*

*Là où il y a de la haine, que je mette l'amour.*

*Là où il y a l'offense, que je mette le pardon.*

*Là où il y a la discorde, que je mette l'union.*

*Là où il y a l'erreur, que je mette la vérité.*

*Là où il y a le doute, que je mette la foi.*

*Là où il y a le désespoir, que je mette l'espérance.*

*Là où il y a les ténèbres, que je mette votre lumière.*

*Là où il y a la tristesse, que je mette la joie.*

*Ô Maître, que je ne cherche pas tant à être consolé qu'à consoler, à être compris qu'à comprendre, à être aimé qu'à aimer, car c'est en donnant qu'on reçoit, c'est en s'oubliant qu'on trouve, c'est en pardonnant qu'on est pardonné, c'est en mourant qu'on ressuscite à l'éternelle vie.*

Source: **La Clochette**, n° 12, déc. 1912, p. 285.

### Origin of this Prayer

The first appearance of the Peace Prayer occurred in France in 1912 in a small spiritual magazine called La Clochette (The Little Bell). It was published in Paris by a Catholic association known as **La Ligue de la Sainte-Messe** (The Holy Mass League), founded in 1901 by a French priest, Father Esther Bouquerel (1855-1923). The prayer bore the title of '*Belle prière à faire pendant la messe*' (A Beautiful Prayer to Say During the Mass), and was published anonymously. The author could possibly have been Father Bouquerel himself, but the identity of the author remains a mystery.

The prayer was sent in French to Pope Benedict XV in 1915 by the French Marquis Stanislas de La Rochethulon. This was soon followed by its 1916 appearance, in Italian, in L'Osservatore Romano [the Vatican's daily newspaper]. Around 1920, the prayer was printed by a French Franciscan priest on the back of an image of St. Francis with the title '*Prière pour la paix*' (Prayer for Peace) but without being attributed to the saint. Between the two world wars, the prayer circulated in Europe and was translated into English. Its has been attributed the first time to saint Francis in 1927 by a French Protestant Movement, **Les Chevaliers du Prince de la Paix** (The Knights of the Prince of Peace), founded by Étienne Bach (1892-1986).

The first translation in English that we know of appeared in 1936 in Living Courageously, a book by Kirby Page (1890-1957), a Disciple of Christ minister, pacifist, social evangelist, writer and editor of The World Tomorrow (New York City). Page clearly attributed the text to St. Francis of Assisi. During World War II and immediately after, this prayer for peace began circulating widely as the Prayer of St. Francis, specially through Francis cardinal Spellman's books, and over the years has gained a worldwide popularity with people of all faiths.

**For more information:** see the book by Dr. Christian Renoux, La prière pour la paix attribuée à saint François : une énigme à résoudre, Paris, Editions franciscaines, 2001, 210 p. : 12.81 euros + shipping (ISBN : 2-85020-096-4). -- Order From: Éditions franciscaines, 9, rue Marie-Rose F-75014 Paris.

**Author's Note:** Dr. Christian Renoux, is continuing his research on the propagation of this prayer, and is looking for new information about its publication in English between 1925 and 1945, and in all other languages between 1912 and today. If you have such information, please contact him at [this email address](#).