

**ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION  
FEBRUARY 2024 UP TO NOW NEWSLETTER**



**St. Margaret of Cortona  
1247 - 1297**

**Covering the District of Columbia, Maryland and  
Delaware, Virginia and portions of West Virginia, and  
portions of Pennsylvania**

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**LET US BEGIN AGAIN, FOR UP TO NOW WE HAVE DONE NOTHING  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

**VOLUME 27 ISSUE 2**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

## Regional Minister's Message

### Most Grateful for the Past Six Years

Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

These last 6 years as your Regional Minister have gone by so quickly that it is hard to believe that another regional election is about to take place on April 20, 2024. I would like to take this time to thank all of you for your support and the encouragement I received throughout my two terms in office.

As Regional Minister, I came to realize the many gifts and talents our regional council and local fraternities have been graced with. I have been told several times, what a wonderful region we have. I cannot take the credit for this; it is you the local fraternities, and the regional council that continues to lead the way in this vastly changing world.

Our JPIC Chair, Gil Donahue, Multicultural Chair, Sita Chakrawarti, Ecumenical Chair, and Vice Minister, Mike Huether have been instrumental in developing these programs at the local fraternity level. Thanks to the local fraternities' eagerness to launch the programs. These programs are bringing our sisters and brothers closer together by learning about the different ways members live out the many diversified cultures within our own fraternity's. It is in learning that we grow together.

A big thank you to our Regional Vice Minister, Michael Huether, for taking on committee chairs for our region, and thanks to the local fraternities for stepping up to the plate when Mike asked for volunteers to chair programs within your fraternity. Mike, thank you for helping with fraternal visitations and elections around the region when needed.

Kudos to our Regional Secretary, Mary Rohde from St. Clare Delaware Fraternity; without her we could not have accomplished our mission as a regional council. Thanks, Mary, for an outstanding job and all that you have contributed

("Regional Minister's Message" continued on page 2)

## Regional Council St. Margaret of Cortona Region

### Regional Minister:

Bob Longo, OFS

### Vice Minister:

Michael Huether, OFS

### Secretary:

Mary Rohde, OFS

### Treasurer:

Peter Noyes, OFS

### Formation Director:

Rita Colleran, OFS

### Area Councilor (MD/PA):

Tobias Harkleroad, OFS

### Area Councilors (VA):

Randy Bender, OFS

Sita Chakrawarti, OFS

### Aera Councilor (MD/DE):

Mary Tchida Badjo, OFS

### Area Councilor (DC/Metro):

Janice Benton, OFS

### Regional Spiritual Assistants:

Fr. Russel Murray, OFM

Br. Michael Meza, OFM Cap

Anne Mulqueen, OFS  
(OFM Conv delegated)

### Regional Youth and Young

### Adult Commission Chair:

Denis Castillo, OFS

### Regional JPIC Chair:

Gil Donahue, OFS

### Regional Interfaith

### Ecumenical Committee

Chair: Mike Huether, OFS

### Regional Multicultural

Chair: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS

Randy Bender, OFS

### Regional Archivist:

Bob Longo, OFS

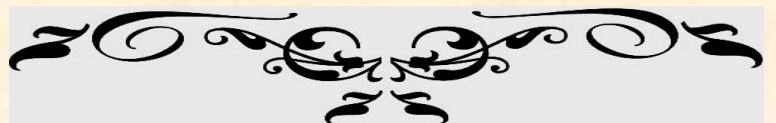
### Regional Newsletter

Editor: Bob Longo, OFS

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to our region. The regional council greatly appreciates you as our regional secretary.

A special thanks to our Regional Treasurer, Peter Noyes, who has been in this position for nine years. His devotion and excellent job performance kept us in the black, and he always made sure we had a balanced budget for the coming year. By the way, Peter feels it is time to turn the treasury books over to someone new; hint, the job is open, so please apply from within.

To our Regional Formation Director, Rita Colleran, and her team, Br. Michael Meza, OFM Cap., our Vice Minister, Michael Huether, and Joan Kane from Little Flower, Peg Crews, from Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, Susan Burke, from Portiuncula Fraternity and Portia Fiesta from St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, for their terrific job in bringing together the local fraternity formation directors on both Zoom meetings and in-person weekend Formation retreats. Kudos to Rita for the choice of weekend speakers in providing information and guidance for the local formation directors. Our ongoing formation these past 3 years has been excellent, thanks to Rita, her team, and all of the local formation directors.

Our regional council could not have functioned properly without the assistance of our Executive Area Councilors, Mary Badjo, Randy Bender, Jan Benton, Sita Chakrawarti, and Toby Harkleroad for their time in conducting fraternal visitations and elections. Their skills in resolving problems at the local fraternity level were greatly appreciated.

Thanks to our regional Spiritual Assistants for their wonderful guidance and for being available for pastoral visitations and witnessing our local fraternity elections. Their spiritual guidance kept all of us on the straight and narrow.

Again, many thanks to all of you for your participation, kindness, and the love you have shown throughout our region. It was a pleasure to have the chance to know and work with you in this beautiful St. Margaret of Corona region.

Please pray about taking a position on the 2024-2027 Regional Council. Council position duties can be found on pages 16 – 22 and the nomination form on page 23 of this edition of the Up to Now Regional newsletter.

In closing, I would like to quote St. Francis, "I have done what is mine to do. May Christ now teach you what you are to do."

With abundant blessings,

Your Franciscan brother in Christ,

*Bob*



*Congratulations to our New Inquirers*



**Holy Family**  
L-R Peter Westhoff  
Minister  
Peggy Gregory, OFS



**Pope St. John XXIII**  
L-R Genevieve Di Ulio  
Sonia Balboni

*Congratulations Candidates*



**St. Mary of the Angels**  
L-R Marilyn Taylor  
Debbie Dubuque  
Bette O'Connor  
Taylor Henry



**Immaculata**  
L-R Arlene Rager, OFS  
Sandra Alvarez, OFS.  
Helen Ann. Wagner, OFS

*Congratulations Candidates*

*Congratulations Newly Professed*



**St. Joseph Cupertino**  
L-R Frank E. Braxton, OFS  
David F. Garcia, OFS  
Kelly Neale, OFS  
John R. Johnson, III, OFS



**Our Lady Queen of the Angels**  
L-R Melissa Moore, OFS  
Sandy Sills, OFS  
Dane Moore, OFS

*Congratulations Newly Professed*



**San Damián**  
L-R Liuvina Gloria Pérez, OFS  
Berta Ascue, OFS



**Tau**  
Kelly Passero, OFS

**Gail Dowling**, OFS, a member of Tau Fraternity, Herndon, Virginia, passed away on November 4, 2023. Gail was professed on October 5, 2003.



**Jim McGraw**, OFS, of Holy Family Fraternity in Manassas, Virginia, passed away on November 20, 2023. Jim was professed in New York State on March 25, 1974 along with his wife Elizabeth.



**Dr. Robert D. Miller II**, OFS, member of St. Anthony of Nagasaki Fraternity, Washington, D.C. passed away on November 22, 2023. Bob was professed on June 11, 1998. Bob was a professor of Religious Studies and Scripture at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV, Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, and Catholic University of America since 2008. Bob leaves behind his wife, Anne Marie Miller, OFS, and four sons.

**Florence Quinn**, OFS, a member of Francis and Clare Fraternity in Salem, Virginia, passed away on January 3, 2024. Florence was professed on May 15, 2011

**Maria Soo Yeon Gibson**, OFS, a member of St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Fairfax, Virginia, passed away on January 9, 2024. Maria was professed on July 15, 2007.

**This Day You Will Be With Me**

**At Your right side there I hung on Your every word.  
To Your jaws did cleave Your tongue, still Your voice I heard.  
Pardon for them did You seek, sparing no excuse.  
And Your humble heart so meek answered not abuse.  
Whence I wondered: "What if I Pardon, too, should seek?"  
But recalling all my crimes stole my breath to speak.  
Arms outstretched, You welcomed me after all I'd done,  
Mercifully questioning: "Still from me you run?  
"Having suffered in your pain, shouldering your cross,  
When your love I sought in vain, then I grieved your loss.  
"What you have to offer me now to make amends is today's fidelity,  
And we shall be friends." "Jesus, please remember me!"  
From the depths I cry. "This day you will be with Me Nevermore to die."**

**-Fr. Timothy J. Draper**

## THOUGHTS ABOUT PEACE AND HOW TO ACHIEVE IT



Peace inevitably means the cessation of war and conflict. Based on our experience of past wars (e.g., World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.), peace does not suddenly come about with a ceasefire and the end of “hot war.” Although a “cold war” has some attributes of peace, it is not the true peace we expect or long for. Indeed, wars often bring more problems than they sought to resolve in the first place. Conflict, and the results of conflict, are long-lasting. It takes great and continuing effort, over the long-term, to foster cooperation and understanding between contending sides.

What is peace to Christians, and how do we get there? Indeed, what does peace really mean in a world of conflict, confusion, and endless competition?

The Bible tells us that peace is a gift from God to His people; it is a state of balance, comfort and direction in our personal lives. However, God does not give us that peace for ourselves alone. As Jesus indicated on countless occasions, God’s peace is meant to be shared with others. The main condition is that the other needs to be open to, and receptive of, the gift. Ideally, the other person will respond to our olive branch in kind. Though, that often is not the case.

Peace cannot be “forced” on the other side. Rather, the generous offer of peace needs to be generously accepted. This requires, first, mutual respect and the absence of threat.

Similarly, peace must be accompanied by justice. Where justice is “giving the other his due,” to be effective it must be tempered with mercy, i.e., “giving the other more than his due.” Seeking justice thus requires sacrifice. There can be no finger pointing. Instead, humility is required to demonstrate that we are all responsible (to some degree) for the deficit of peace.

The world is now confronting active warfare in Europe, incipient warfare in the Middle East, and many situations of unrest, gang activity, and violence all over. As Christians, how do we deal with these issues? Is there an effective way to address them?

Jesus came into our world during an era of conflict: political, social, economic and religious. His approach was to be open to all he encountered, wishing them “Shalom,” that is, “Peace be to you, may all go well with you” (John 14:27). Of course, Jesus, like the prophets before him, was not universally accepted and welcomed; even when rebuffed, though, he entered into dialogue with expectation and hope for a change of mind. He also challenged people to be true to their Bible-based principles.

While we all long for peace, calm, and security, we usually can only attain those states for short periods (2 Thessalonians 3:16). Then, the world intrudes on our life, and presents matters that require our attention. So, that kind of peace is temporary and does not bring us the complete rest we seek. Continuous, comforting rest in God is another way to describe heaven.



Jesus understands our world quite well (John 16:33). We always have some degree of turmoil, problems to be solved, social justice issues, violence of various sorts, and general inability to get along with others. Some of these problems come from the fact that we do not all share the same mentality or approach to life.

Christ's "peace" refers to a hope and reassurance that goes beyond what a fallen world can offer – transcending all understanding (Philippians 4:7). It is permanent, guaranteed, and eternal (Hebrews 6:18–19). Christ encourages His followers to keep their "hearts" from fear and trouble.

The Gospels call us frequently to “Repent.” The Greek word behind that is “metanoia,” which means an expansion of our thinking, superseding old patterns, and constant growth spiritually. Growth comes about through our encounters with the world’s problems. To bring about peace, we individually must change. Dealing with social justice issues should soften our hearts and deepen our understanding. When the occasion arises, we might be called to step in and intercede on behalf of the innocent or the victim of violence (Matthew 5:9). Growth also involves educating ourselves about issues that the government and social authorities are facing. Our advocacy on those issues might be part of the solution, and a way to bring about peace (Colossians 3:15). Those who promote peace have joy (Proverbs 12:20).

The Bible urges us to pray for all people everywhere—including, and especially—for our enemies (1 Timothy 2:1–2). That is a tall order and a constant challenge for all of us. Even so, it is worthwhile, and this prayer alone may bring us peace. The Bible provides many passages about peace. Those seeking peace and assurance of God’s gift of peace to us may wish to pray Psalm 91.

Pope Francis also offers a Prayer for Peace:

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace. (USCCB)

Gil Donahue, OFS  
Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Animator,  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region, Secular Franciscans

## EFFECTIVE INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

### (Part III)

Hello to all of my Franciscan Sisters and Brothers!

Continuing with our dialogue on effective ways to engage in interfaith dialogue, we get involved with learning more of our own theology by looking at the theologies of other faiths. Again, this article is based upon the reference, "What Makes Dialogue Effective/" by Devorah Schoenfeld, PhD, associate professor at Loyola University of Chicago and published in "Ecumenical Trends" by the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute.

Topics of this type of dialogue can be easily found in Bible commentaries and interpretations. Occasionally, when Jewish and Christian interpreters read each others writings, they see something in the text they haven't noticed before. This helps them to more clearly see their own interpretations better. Especially impressive is the ongoing work among Christian theologians to develop Christian approaches to theology, the Bible, and ethics that are free of anti-Jewish overtones. Judeo-Christian dialogue is very helpful in developing these new Christian theologies.

This new kind of Jewish-Christian dialogue is actually essential for Christians since it references Jesus as a Jewish person and a Jewish theological being—the Christ or Messiah. Christians always and inevitably need to give thought to Jews in their own theological work. There, however, is no reciprocity here as Jews and Judaism are central in the Christian Bible, while Christians and Christianity are not a major part of any Jewish text. Jewish scholars and Rabbis, however, in our contemporary world do often reference Christianity in their works: they contrast it with Judaism to emphasize the difference between the two faiths. Judaism by its very nature is not defined by Christianity in the same way as Christianity is by Judaism. Happening now in America is the work of constructing Judaism in the way of Christianity. So now both Jews and Christians have internal narratives of the other that impact how we may practice our own religions.

So, interreligious dialogue with the goal of practicing your faith's theology more understandably is effective when it results in seeing more clearly your own beliefs, sacred doctrines, or religious practices in better ways. It unfortunately is ineffective if it results in no further understanding of your own theology. If people are not thoroughly trained in their own spiritual tradition, it can cause one to adopt parts of another religion's practice, culture, or theology without having the tools and resources to see whether or not it will truly fit the rest of ones' religious practice.

Our next article will deal with ways of maintaining the boundaries between the two faith communities while engaging in theological work together.

Mike Huether, OFS  
Regional Vice Minister  
Ecumenical/Interfaith Chairman





## Multiculturalism II

Sita Chakrawarti

This article is a sequel to the first article I wrote on multiculturalism for the August 2021 Up to Now. I have discussed multiculturalism with several fraternities and at the Chapter of Ministers meeting since then. In this article, I would like to reflect on what I have learned during this period and to consider where we can go from here.

We all know that Jesus was born a Jew in Roman-occupied Judea and lived and died in a mainly Jewish context. We also know that his life, death, and resurrection transcend that context to bring salvation to the entire world. After his resurrection, it was Paul who is sent to bring that message to the Gentiles, becoming the multicultural disciple.

Because Paul's ministry and evangelization to the Gentiles happened after the Resurrection, it can be easy to forget just how radical Jesus' own ministry was, how he bucked the norms and limits prescribed by the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin. Even among the Jews, he sought out the marginalized, curing the blind, the unclean, and women. He selected a putative collaborator, the tax collector Matthew, to be a disciple.

Jesus also goes outside the Jewish realm, reaching out to those who were even more taboo to his society. He speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well and empowers her to spread his good news to her community. This hits three off-limits categories, as she is a woman, an adulteress, and a Samaritan. I was even more struck by the Gospel reading from the 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in 2023, Matthew 15:21-28, which I somehow don't remember hearing before: Jesus goes to Tyre and Sidon, an alien land, and, after a rather confrontational beginning, he acknowledges a Canaanite woman's faith and cures her daughter in the face of the disciples' objections.

To me, these are all examples of what I have been calling multiculturalism, i.e., looking past the external, societal trappings to see who a person really is, loving that person as an individual, unique human being, and responding to him/her accordingly. Church teaching reinforces this. For example, Lumen Gentium, Section 42, reminds us that, since God is love, and because Christ loved us, we are called to follow His example of perfect charity and servant leadership, loving and serving our neighbors.

Eight hundred years before Lumen Gentium, Francis heard Jesus' call. His embrace of the leper marked the beginning of his conversion and ministry. In giving us our Rule and establishing our order, he gave us a guideline for following Jesus' call by embracing the lepers of our day and living "from Gospel to life and life to Gospel." We are called to see Christ in all our

brothers and sisters. But do we also really appreciate each one as the unique and beautiful creation of God that we are?

My discussions with several of our regional fraternities show that, although they don't check the multicultural box in their reports, most are trying to add a multicultural dimension to their ministries. There is great work being done in this region to help the poor and to work for justice. I am so impressed and humbled when I see the way our fraternities try to live our Franciscan calling. I have learned a lot from all of you.

However, without mentioning specifics, I would like to cite one conversation in particular, because it sent my reflections on multiculturalism in a new direction and is, in fact, one of the bases of this article. I asked the minister of one fraternity what they were doing on the multicultural front. He replied, "We are multicultural." I was not sure how to understand his answer.

The fraternity in question is one where the members are of a different ethnic origin from the majority, and they hold their meetings in a different language. As such, they add a multicultural diversity to our region that enriches us, our nation, and our order. They are also doing some wonderful works of ministry. But I still was puzzled by his answer.

There is a literary critical theory that posits that no one can see through anyone else's eyes, either physically or figuratively. Each person occupies a unique space that no one else can occupy, no matter how close they may be to each other. Thus, no one can have the exact same angle of sight, or "point of view," as anyone else. This inevitable difference generates a sense of "otherness" between them and everyone else. The degree to which a person is seen as "Other" depends on the relationship: family, friends, neighbors,...strangers. The "Other" wakens a sense of mistrust, rivalry, even enmity or hatred, in proportion to the degree of separation from the given individual. The greater the distance, the "otherness," the greater the potential for exclusion, marginalization, discrimination. This a universal human trait, resulting from our fallen nature.

Many of us in our region may feel that we are seen as "Other" by people in our communities, workplaces, etc. Some of us probably have faced and may continue to face marginalization and discrimination. The injustice that people inflict on us is surely painful and unfair.

But we are Franciscans. Francis embraced the leper and the marginalized – and was marginalized and discriminated against for doing so. Nevertheless, he continued both to serve the marginalized and to love and offer courtesy to those who mocked and mistreated him, seeing each one as a child of God. Through our profession, we have promised to follow his example. In the face of all the difficulties, including those posed by our human reactions to how we are treated by others and by our own human limitations, let us strive to see past the cliches, the stereotypes, the boxes society has created, to see each individual we encounter as Francis and Our Lord did. Let us try to see each one, and each other, as unique, beloved children of God, with unique talents and value, and to look them in the eyes with love. That is multiculturalism.





Rita Colleran OFS - Regional Formation Director

Next week Lent begins on 14 February. As a Catholic this is a regular to our liturgical life, as a Franciscan it is especially meaningful. We strive to live a penitential life surrendering ourselves to grow closer to Jesus and live life in way that embraces Christ within me.

According to the Franciscan Tradition, "early Franciscans saw themselves as part of the great penitential movement of their times: men and women who were hearing the Gospel afresh and turning their hearts to the coming of God's Kingdom in a deeper way. Therefore, the liturgical season of Lent, dedicated as it is to a profound conversion of mind and heart, naturally occupied a special place in their lives."

Profound conversion – these words as from our own Rule #7. ..."brothers and sisters of penance, motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls 'conversion'.

During Lent we are encouraged to beef up on three practices: prayer, fasting, and alms giving. One can often hear conversations where someone asks, "what are you giving up for Lent?" My daughter Christina is a shining example in this as each year she will clearly declare what she is giving up for Lent – ketchup, chocolate, or watching a favorite television show. She is very good at holding to her word. Without complaint she will do as she says, then proudly celebrates her accomplishment when Easter arrives. She makes us smile in her simplicity about this.

For each of us, I believe we seek to experience Lent in as meaningful way as we can. Some good suggestions I have heard of late are to be less negative, be more present for each member of my family, complain less – encourage more. There are literally thousands of ideas on the web, many of them insightful.

My favorite for this year is from the Peace Prayer – making me more conscious of our vocation. For this Lenten season I will work to:

Be loving where there is hatred;  
pardon when I feel injured;  
show and offer faith where there is doubt;  
be hopeful where there is despair;  
be a light where there is darkness; and  
bring joy where there is sadness.

Truly being of mind and heart to console, understand, and love others each and every day.

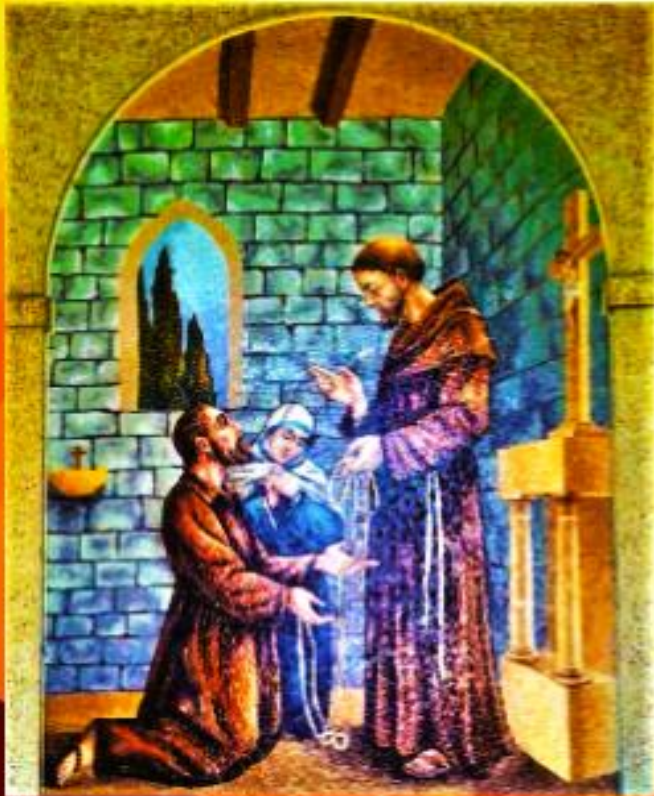
At first glance, this may seem a bit pollyannaish and naive. Yet isn't it who we are and what we are about as Franciscans. Yes, like you, I try to do all of this in life; and sadly, fail at times. In last month's Franciscan Family Forum, the topic was being an "Intentional Franciscan" to dedicate living our vocation each day in a more intentional way. I think that living the Peace Prayer more deliberately will help to do that.

Yes – giving alms, fasting twice a week, and praying more deeply will happen. And, with a deep breath and hopeful heart, I will strive to embrace our Peace Prayer for Lent this year. Join me?

**Day of Reflection  
for Inquirers & Candidates**  
Saturday, February 24, 2024



# Living a Penitential Life



Join us for this very special day created just for you! You are an inquirer beginning to learn about the Secular Franciscan life, or you are a candidate nearing the time to make the permanent commitment of profession to the Secular Franciscan Order. At this event you will learn more about the Secular Franciscan life and about the life long commitment made during profession.

Fr. Stephen King OFM Conventual  
Will be the presenter for the Day. He has presented at several of our Regional retreats and seminars and is a favorite for his sense of humor, illuminating messages, and inspiration. He is also a regular presenter at the Shrine of St. Anthony and an author.



**Saturday, February 24, 2024**  
**9:30 - 3:00 pm**  
**Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America**  
**1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington DC**  
**Cost: \$50.00 Lunch is included**

Schedule of the Day
9:30 am - Adoration in Chapel
9:45 am Coffee
10:00 am Liturgy of the Hours (Sing the Hours)
10:15 am Morning Session— Fr. Stephen
12:00 Lunch
1:00 pm Afternoon Session— Fr. Stephen
2:45 pm Closing and Prayer

A freewill offering will be collected for Fr. Stephen

**TO REGISTER**  
**Deadline is February 17, 2024**  
Register online:  
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Or contact Rita Colleran at [RLCOLLERAN10@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RLCOLLERAN10@GMAIL.COM) or 703-310-9958



Register **NOW** for 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.

[Chapter of Mats](#)

**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 on page 13. After August 1, all reservations are final and non-refundable.**

### **Housing Options:**

Housing options will 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)

*(Below is a map of the Claggett Center)*

**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 ASAP.**

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

- Checks should be made payable to **St. 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 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
- Publicity
- Registration and Welcome
- Onsite volunteer (usher, guide, etc.)
- Liturgy and Environment
- Access
- Social

To Register, [click here](#) for 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)**

**Below is a map of the campus**  
**(Click on the picture to enlarge map)**



2024 Chapter of Mats—September 6 - 8, 2024



3035 Buckeystown Pike—Adamstown, MD 21710

Claggett Center Website — <https://www.claggettcenter.org/>



Scroll down for pictures at the Claggett Center

## SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the St. Margaret of Cortona 2024 Chapter of Mats

The Next 800 Years

The Chapter is a gathering of Secular Franciscans

to celebrate -

where we've been, where we are now, where we are going.

September 6-8, 2024

Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland

Watch the *Up to Now* for more details.

**\*\* Please share with ALL members of the fraternity.\*\***

## RESERVA LA FECHA

Únanse con nosotros para el Capítulo de las Esteras de Santa Margarita de Cortona 2024

Los Próximos 800 Años

El Capítulo es una reunión de Franciscanos Seglares

para celebrar -

donde hemos estado, donde estamos ahora, hacia donde vamos

Del 6 al 8 de Septiembre de 2024  
Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland

Miren *Hasta Ahora* para obtener más detalles

**\*\* Por favor comparten con TODOS los miembros de las Fraternidad\*\***

## 남자를 기억 하세요

2024 년 코르토나의 성 말가리파 뜻자리 총회에 참여 하십시오

앞으로 800년

이 총회는 재속 프란치스칸의 모임입니다.

다음 사랑을 기리기 위해서-

우리는 어디에 있었고, 우리는 지금 어디에 있으며, 우리는 어디로 가고 있는가.

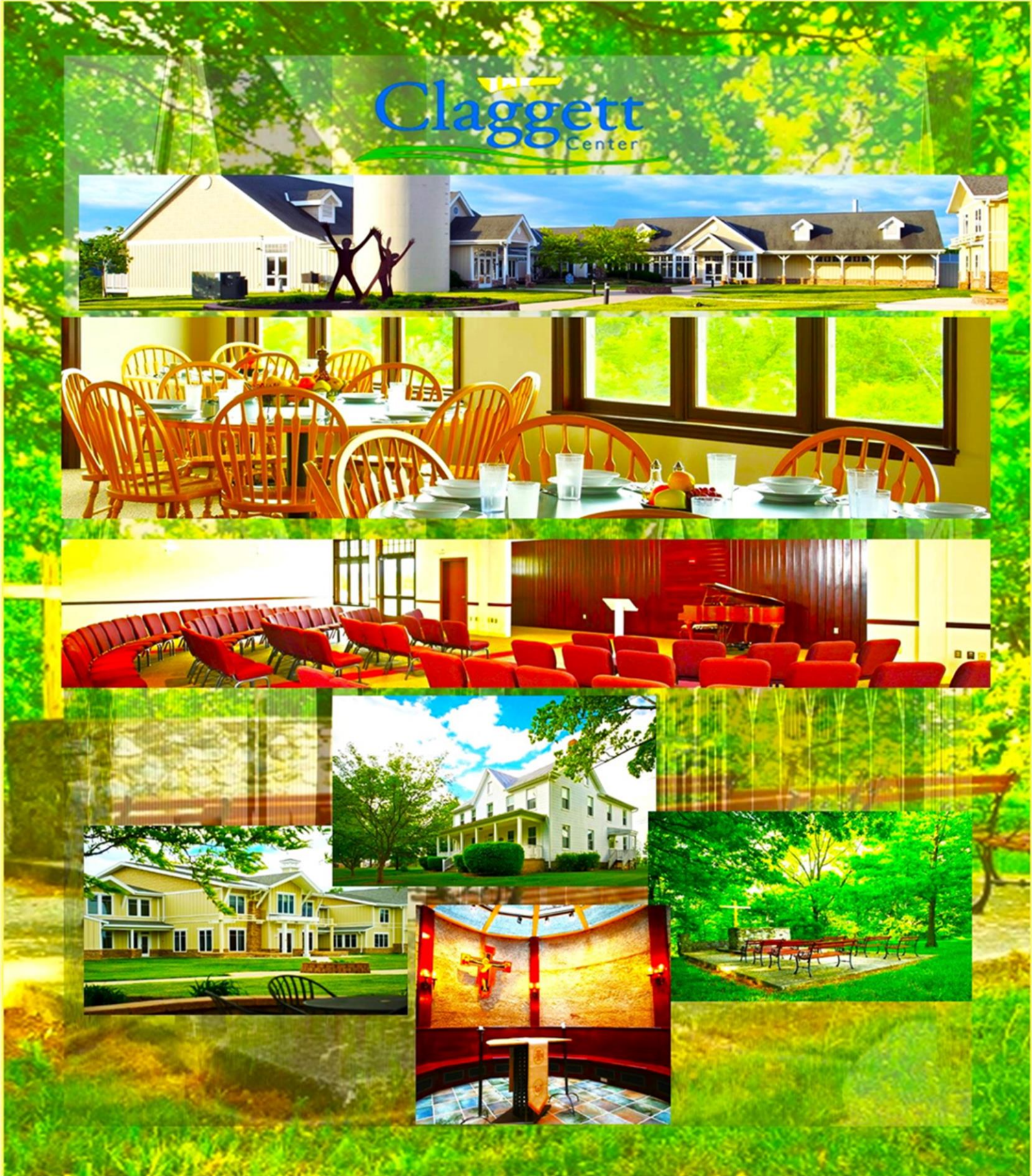
2024년 9월 6-8일

장소 : Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland

자세한 내용은 지금까지의 사항을 참조 하십시오.

**\*\* 형제회의 모든 회원님들께 알려 주시기를 부탁드립니다.\*\***

All attendees must fill out an Emergency Medical Form to keep in their room while attending the weekend Chapter of Mats. Click on the blue 2023 [Emergency Medical Form](#), fill out the form, print a copy, and bring it with you to the Chapter of Mats.







Sisters and brothers in Francis and Clare,

The St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council is preparing for our April 2024 Regional Council Elections. Our National Area Councilor, Joshua Molidor, OFS, who will conduct the elections, is on board. The elections will be held at, Our Lady of the Fields Parish, 1070 Cecil Avenue South, Millersville, MD off of MD 3 North.

It's incredible to think that April 20, 2024 will be here before we know it. Therefore, I am asking our sisters and brothers who are two years or more professed, to discern placing your name on the 2024 – 2027 nomination slate for a position on the regional council. Members of the nomination committee, Mary Rhode [r3rohde@msn.com](mailto:r3rohde@msn.com) and Randy Bender [benderclan@verizon.net](mailto:benderclan@verizon.net) will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Below are the duties for each council position. - *Bob Longo*

### *Regional Minister*

#### **Article 51 General Constitutions**

While firmly upholding the co-responsibility of the council to animate and guide the fraternity, the minister, as the primary person responsible for the fraternity, is expected to make sure that the directions and the decisions of the council are put into practice and will keep the council informed about what he or she is doing.

The minister has the following duties:

- a. to call, preside at, and direct the meetings of the regional council; to convoke, every three years, the elective chapter of the fraternity, having heard the council on the formalities of the convocation;
- b. to prepare an annual report to be sent to the national council after it has been approved by the council of the fraternity;
- c. represent the [council] in all its relations with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. When the [council] acquires a juridical personality in the civil order, the minister becomes, when possible, its legal representative;
- d. to request, with the consent of the council, the pastoral and [national] visits, at least once every three years;
- e. to put into effect those acts which the Constitutions refer to his or her competence;

#### **The regional minister also has the following additional responsibilities:**

- to read, study and implement the Rule, Constitutions, and Statutes;
- to set goals, resolve issues, and accomplish tasks for the good of the region;
- to set parameters on how the council meetings will be conducted;
- to inform the council members of their reporting responsibilities;
- to oversee that all regional council members are fulfilling their assigned duties;
- when needed, to delegate responsibilities to appropriate regional council

- member(s);
- to inform the council members of their reporting responsibilities;
- to oversee that all regional council members are fulfilling their assigned duties;
- when needed, to delegate responsibilities to appropriate regional council member(s);
- along with the council, to set goals for the next three years;
- to make sure that the directions and the decisions of the regional council are put into practice;
- to keep the regional council informed concerning activities and information at the national level and inform (if needed) the local fraternities;
- to keep the regional council informed about local fraternity activities;
- to encourage area councilors to request local fraternity ministers to attend or send a local council representative to regional meetings and other regional activities;
- to ensure that communication is maintained between the region and the local fraternity;
- to ensure that TAU-USA National Newsletter and Up-to-Now Regional Newsletter are sent to local fraternities by the region's secretary or others assigned to do so;
- to make sure periodic updates are made to the region's directory of local councils;
- to convene a yearly Chapter of Ministers meeting;
- to offer a yearly regional retreat to local fraternities;
- to perform such other duties as are required by the SFO Constitutions and Statutes;
- to carry out the proper purposes of the council;
- to update and maintain the Regional Minister's Binder;
- upon leaving this position, to pass the Regional Minister's Binder to the newly elected regional minister;
- to make arrangements to hand over all regional documents to the newly elected regional minister;
- as an outgoing regional minister, to make him or herself available to help the incoming regional minister become acquainted with urgent and pending matters;
- to hold regional council meetings at least four times a year. (If the regional minister is unable to be present at a council meeting, the meeting may be held with the regional vice minister conducting the business; (see Article 52.1(c) General Constitutions.)

### *Regional Vice Minister*

#### **Article 52 General Constitutions**

1. The regional vice-minister has the following duties:
  - a. collaborate in a fraternal spirit and support the regional minister
  - b. in carrying out his or her specific duties;
  - c. exercise the functions entrusted by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter;
  - d. take the place of the regional minister in both duties and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary impediment; (*Also, see Article 81 GC*)
  - e. assume the functions of the regional minister when the office remains vacant;
  - f. **Additional Duties:**
    - read, study, and implement the Rule, Constitutions, and Statutes;
    - perform such other duties as are required by the SFO Constitutions and Statutes;
    - assist the regional minister upon request;

- exercise all functions assigned by the regional council;
- update and maintain the Regional Vice Minister’s Binder;
- upon leaving this position, pass the Regional Vice Minister’s Binder to the newly elected regional vice minister;
- make arrangements to hand over all regional documents to the new regional Vice Minister;
- the outgoing regional vice minister should make himself/herself available to help the incoming regional vice minister become acquainted with and brought up-to-date on pending matters.

### Regional Secretary

#### **Article 52.2 General Constitutions**

2. The secretary has the following duties:
  - a. compiles the official acts of the regional fraternity and the council and assures that they are sent to their respective proper recipients;
  - b. to see to the updating and preservation of the records and the registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers to and from the fraternities;
  - c. provide for the communication of the more important facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to provide for their dissemination through the mass media;

#### **The secretary also has the following responsibilities:**

- if elected, holds voting privileges and is accountable for all decisions made by the fraternity council; if appointed, does not have voting rights on the council;
- compile the official minutes of regional council meetings. The council minutes are extremely important and must be maintained; they contain valuable and sometimes personal information. Every decision the regional council makes should be documented;

#### **Please Note:**

1. In the event one of the council members resigns, the council must vote on his or her

replacement. This must be documented in the minutes as above. A council member who has been appointed in this manner does not have voting rights.

2. Many discussions and decisions made by the council are confidential and should be kept confidential. Be discreet in speech and keep this part of the meeting separate from the council meeting minutes.

#### **Additional Guidelines**

- keeps attendance records at regional council meetings, assists the regional council with general communications, assists in sending announcements of events, meetings, or other regional activities; forwards to the Regional Database Manager, documents such as newly received, newly professed, deaths, withdrawals, transfers, etc., received from the local fraternity;
- to ensure that TAU -USA and Regional Newsletters are sent to local fraternities through the region’s secretary or others assigned to do so; updates and maintains the Regional Secretary’s Binder;
- upon leaving this position, passes the Regional Secretary’s Binder to the newly elected regional secretary;
- updates and maintains the Regional Secretary’s Binder
- upon leaving this position, passes the Regional Secretary’s Binder to the newly elected regional secretary;
- makes arrangements to hand over all regional documents to the new

regional secretary;

- is available to help the newly elected regional secretary to become acquainted with his or her new position on the regional council;

## *Regional Treasurer*

### **Article 52.4 General Constitutions**

4. the treasurer, or bursar, has the following duties:
  - a. to guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected;
  - b. to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the regional council;
  - c. to render an account of his or her administration to the regional council according to the norms of the national statutes;

The treasurer also has the following additional responsibilities:

- if elected, holds voting privileges and is accountable for all decisions made by the fraternity council. if appointed, has no voting rights (see NAFRA Statutes);
- presents an annual budget for conducting the business of the regional council;
- all payments are to be made by check, recorded in an accurate ledger;
- expenditure of funds must be approved by the council in advance;
- ensures the deposit of all funds into such bank accounts in the name of the region and keeps an accurate ledger;
- maintains a yearly calendar showing monthly payouts and future activity events for which the regional council will need to provide funding. This calendar will help the newly elected regional treasurer after regional council elections have taken place;
- presents an updated financial report at each regional council meeting showing current expenses, income, and checkbook balance;
- appropriate forms for reporting the financial health of the regional council can be found at: [Guidelines, Forms & Other Resources](#)
- submits a financial report and the bank account register for approval at regular intervals as decided upon by the regional council;
- provides the regional council with a year-end report showing receipts, expenditures, and balances in the treasury for the year;
- receives from local fraternity treasurers their Fair Share assessment from the fraternity’s Common Fund;
- is available to answer questions when a local fraternity is planning to have an audit of their treasurer records;

- ensures local fraternity Audits are conducted every three years;
- sends the assessed fair share to the National Treasurer once a year;
- receives by the end of the year a current report of candidates and professed from each local fraternity treasurer;
- at a national visitation provides a stipend to both the pastoral visitor and national visitor, if approved by the regional council;
- keeps a copy of, and updates, if necessary, the region’s Tax ID;
- updates and maintains the Regional Treasurer’s Binder;
- upon leaving this position, passes the binder to the newly elected regional treasurer;
- makes arrangements with the newly elected treasurer and new regional minister to meet at the bank holding the region’s checking account to sign signature cards. At this time the past treasurer will hand over all documents pertaining to this position;
- takes the following to the bank:
  - a. IRS Determination Letter;
  - b. An up-to-date letter from National stating – “St. Margaret of Cortona Region is a 501 (c) (3) Organization”;
  - c. EIN Number;
  - d. Articles of Incorporation;
  - e. Latest Elections Report; (Original)

### *Regional Formation Director*

#### **Article 52 General Constitutions**

1. The master of formation has the following duties:
  - a. to coordinate, with the help of the other members of the council, the formative activities of the local fraternity’s;

#### **The regional formation director also has the following additional responsibilities:**

- if elected, holds voting privileges and is accountable for all decisions made by the regional fraternity council;
- if appointed, does not have voting rights on the council;
- coordinates, with the help of the other regional council members, the formation program for local fraternity formation directors;
- when needed calls the local formation directors for meetings and workshops;
- works with regional spiritual assistants and the formation team in developing formation programs for local fraternities;
- ensures that local fraternity formation directors obtain documentation such as Baptism Certificate, annotated with other sacrament dates are received from the inquirers. Inquirers need two letters of recommendation, one being

from the inquirer’s pastor; all are to be received before the “Rite of Admission.” If married, provide verification of validity, Decree of Nullity, if applicable, if ordained, provide a copy of the letter verifying faculties; (See The FUN Manual – For the Formator 3-23-2011 – Page 18 of 26)

- sees that all local fraternity formation directors have The FUN Manual. This is a great re- source for both initial and ongoing formation; make sure the members of the regional formation team become familiar with its contents. Ongoing formation materials such as Handbook for Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership can be purchased at Smoky Valley Printing and found in the TAU–USA national newsletter;
- ensures that local fraternity spiritual assistants are involved in the formation process in both initial and ongoing formation instruction;
- updates and maintains the Regional Formation Director’s Binder;
- upon leaving this position, passes to the newly elected the Formation Director’s Binder and *The FUN Manual*;
- makes arrangements to hand over all regional documents to the new regional formation director;
- is available to help the new formation director become acquainted with his or her new position on the regional council;

### *Regional Area Councilors*

The area councilors have the following responsibilities:

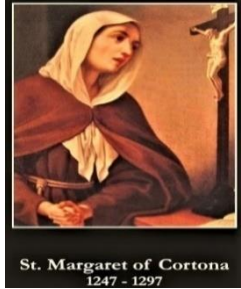
- if elected by the local fraternity ministers or delegates at the time of the regional elections, hold voting privileges;
- the regional council may appoint councilors as deemed necessary, with no voting rights;
- the area councilor is accountable for all decisions made by the regional fraternity council;
- follow through on jobs assigned;
- within a reasonable time frame, area councilors are to prepare a spreadsheet of upcoming fraternal visitations and elections and forward it to the regional minister. At the end of each year, regional area councilors will create a spreadsheet for the new year and forward it to the regional minister;
- at the request of local fraternities, regional area councilors conduct regional visitations;
- if a fraternal visitation is due and the regional council has not received a request from the local fraternity, the area councilor will contact the fraternity minister;
- if the local fraternity minister has not attempted to contact a regional spiritual assistant to conduct a regional pastoral visitation, the area councilor will take on this responsibility;
- at the time of the fraternal visitation, the area councilor must see a copy of the fraternity’s canonical establishment and a copy of the latest audit report;

- if a local fraternity appears to be in trouble, the area councilor will conduct an emergency regional visitation with a request to a regional spiritual assistant to conduct a regional pastoral visitation;
- the local fraternity minister will call a chapter of elections for their fraternity every three years. The outgoing minister cannot be elected to the vice minister's position after leaving the minister's position;
- if elections are due and the council has not received a request from the local fraternity, the area councilor will contact the fraternity minister;
- if the local fraternity minister has not attempted to contact a regional spiritual assistant to witness the elections or a delegate has not been assigned, the area councilor will take on this responsibility;
- regional area councilors are responsible for sending the [Council Members Manual](#) to newly elected fraternity council members;
- collaborates with the regional council in determining areas of needs at the local fraternity level;
- accurate and organized records should be maintained of all communication regarding assigned duties in their area jurisdictions;
- notations or short summaries of important conversations or actions should be kept in a file for future reference;
- regional area councilor, once a year, calls a meeting with the local fraternity ministers in their jurisdiction. Calling a yearly meeting could save some headaches later down the road;
- maintains a Regional Councilor's Binder;
- upon leaving this position, pass the Regional Councilor's Binder to the newly elected regional area councilor for the assigned area jurisdiction;
- make arrangements to hand over all regional documents to the new area councilor;
- be available to help the new area councilor to become acquainted with his or her new area jurisdiction;



**Nomination Form on page 23**

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION  
2024 CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS  
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024  
At Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, MD



**Nomination Form**

**Candidates must be professed two years or more.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year Professed: \_\_\_\_\_

Fraternity \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve as (**Select**):

- Minister
- Vice Minister
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Formation Director
- Area Councilor Metro DC
- Area Councilor VA
- Area Councilor MD/DE
- Area Councilor PA/MD

How I serve my fraternity/the region: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Continue on the back)

Why I feel called to serve the region: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Continue on the back)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Minister, Vice Minister, Treasurer, Formation Director candidates need to submit a resume that pertains to the position above, please email it to: Mary Rohde or Randy Bender below by Saturday, April 10, 2024**

Mary [r3rohde@msn.com](mailto:r3rohde@msn.com)  
Randy [benderclan@verizon.net](mailto:benderclan@verizon.net)