



THE CLARION

St. Conrad Fraternity, Order of Franciscans Secular
St. Margaret of Cortona Region
Hanover, Pennsylvania

May / June 2018

Pax et Bonum

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Minister's Message

May is the special month of Our Lady and Our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The practice of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin began in the late 13th century initially as a way to replace secular springtime celebrations. Honoring Mary during the month of May has been highly recommended by many popes including St. John Paul II. The Church also recognizes and honors Mary as our mother (John 19:27).

How appropriate that Mother's Day is in May. The first celebration of this day in the United State was held in 1908. Anna Jarvis, the founder of Mother's Day in the U.S., believed a mother is "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world." And, for most people, that was pretty much true – until 1973. That was the year of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. No longer was a pregnant mother considered to be "with child," because an unborn baby was now something less than human; it had become a fetus.

Those of us old enough to remember at least back to the seventies know how rapidly technology has developed since then. With respect to pregnancies, ultrasound, electronic fetal heart monitoring and fetoscopy (an optical instrument put directly into the womb) has made it possible to see a developing baby as never before. Here is a description of a baby in the womb at 20 weeks: "the baby weighs about 10 ounces and is a little more than 6 inches long. The baby can suck a thumb, yawn, stretch, and make faces. Soon -- if you haven't already -- you'll feel your baby move."

On the evening of January 29, 2018, a procedural vote on a Senate bill to ban abortions after 20 weeks failed after more than three hours of debate. The bill will continue to be considered in the Senate and is widely expected to be a topic of debate in 2018 elections. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act proposes that abortions be made illegal after 20 weeks on the basis that fetal neural development enables the unborn to experience pain. The bill, which was passed by the House in October 2017, is opposed by most Senate Democrats. Fourteen Catholic senators, twelve Democrats and two Republicans, voted against the 20-week abortion ban in the procedural vote.

Germain Grisez served as professor of moral theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, from 1979 to 2009. Sadly, he died February 1, 2018 at the age of 88. He was considered a towering figure in contemporary Catholic teaching on abortion, contraception and chastity. In a 2004 article for *America* magazine on public funding for abortion, he wrote that "legislators who support abortion funding ipso facto intend that abortions be done."

So what does this mean for us, you and me? Do we say we oppose abortion but vote for legislators who support abortion funding? The federal budget this year contained \$500,000,000 of taxpayer dollars for Planned Parenthood, the world's largest abortion provider, founded by Margaret Sanger. Planned Parenthood provides about a third of the roughly one million abortions done in the United States every year. Think about it – since the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, over 60,000,000 abortions have been performed in the United States.

I believe, as Anna Jarvis said, that our mothers have done more for us than anyone in the world. I wish all mothers a special and happy Mother's Day. Let us also thank our spiritual mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, for all she does for us and wish her, too, a Happy Mother's Day; and with Mary enjoy this beautiful month of May.

Pax et bonum,
Jeff Topper

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

May

Evangelization: **The Mission of the Laity**

That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

June

Universal: **Social Networks**

That social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.

May Birthdays

Maribeth Cortina 5/23
 Hendrika Strathmeyer 5/22

May Profession Anniversaries

Maribeth Cortina 5/10/1977

May Necrology

Marguerite Eriksson 5/8/1984
 Raymond Moore 5/7/1983
 Thelma Moore 5/7/2012
 Thomas Murnane 5/25/1978
 John Rebert 5/4/2013

Important Dates in May

May 1 - St. Joseph the Worker
 May 10 - Ascension of the Lord
 May 13 - Mother's Day
 May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima
 May 16 - St. Margaret of Cortona
 May 20 - St. Bernardine of Siena
 May 31 - Visitation of the BVM

Fraternity Prayer Vine

Please continue to pray for the health and the intentions of:

- José Barata
- Chet Barrick
- Mary Barrick
- Pat Bilz
- Fr. Richard Forcier, ORM Conv
- Mary Lou Gennaula
- Concetta Glorioso
- Sherlynn Holland
- Mary Minor
- Jackie Redding
- Sr. Cecilia Reilly

June Birthdays

Pat Bilz 6/22
 Delores Caicco..... 6/17

June Profession Anniversaries

José Barata 6/3/2002
 Dick Bonini 6/19/1994
 Delores Caicco..... 6/9/1974
 Sherlynn Holland 6/29/2008
 Mary Minor 6/24/1979
 Henny Strathmeyer 6/27/1982

June Necrology

Margaret Nash 6/24/1988
 Frances Provenza 6/20/1996
 Sophia Sauerwald 6/27/1984
 Angela Wintrode 6/4/1995

Important Dates in June

June 3 - The Most Holy Body and Blood
 of Christ (Corpus Christi)
 June 8 - Sacred Heart of Jesus
 June 9 - Immaculate Heart of Mary
 June 13 - St. Anthony of Padua
 June 17 - Father's Day
 June 22 - St. Thomas Moore

Just a reminder: if you want your prayer need(s) added to the prayer vine, or if you wish to have your name removed, please let your editor know.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, we beg you to send us many holy vocations, and to help those given such callings to respond freely, generously and faithfully. May their self-offerings and consecrations offer you fitting praise. Amen.

Prayer at Gatherings

For May and June we will pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Please bring your breviaries.

Attendance at the Gathering

All active members should make the Gathering a priority. If you are unable to attend, please contact one of the council members. We are a family and, naturally, become concerned when we don't hear from one of our brothers or sisters.

Final Thought

A man, late for an important meeting, was searching desperately for a parking spot in a crowded lot. Looking up to the sky he entreated "Lord if you find me a parking spot, I promise to start going to church again." The words were barely out of his mouth when a spot opened up right in front of his car. The man looked back up, "never mind I found one."