

The Little Portion

January 2019

Next Fraternity Gathering

January 28, 2019

St. Joan of Arc School

Aberdeen, Md 21001

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Fraternity

Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus St. Margaret of Cortona Region



Due to Construction in the Meeting House, we will meet in the School. Please park in the small parking lot and ring the bell so Ginger can buzz you in.

AGENDA

7:30 pm: **Opening Prayer** page 35 of Ritual Book which will be followed by The Rite of Extraction of Saints. Please bring **The Ritual Book**. After Closing Prayer, we will have a Social. There is no need to bring the Liturgy of the Hours Book.

Cancellation Policy Due to Snow

If Harford County Public Schools are Closed, there will be no Council Meeting or Fraternity Gathering.

Prayer Intentions

The Simmons Family: Mary, Ed, Brian,
Mary Anne, Cecelia, Eliot, Ed Jr, and Noel
Ron Teller
Pierre LaCour
Jeffrey Teller Jr.
Roland Willard
Joan Jackson
Jo Magness-Murtaugh
Mary Rose Scelsi
Marilyn (Donna's Cousin)
For all those in our Book of Intentions



Allen Siegel 2/1
Jo Magness/Murtaugh 2/20

Article 3 of the Rule

The present rule, succeeding "Memoriale Propositi (1221) and the rules approved by the Supreme Pontiffs Nicholas IV and Leo XIII, adapts the Secular Franciscan Order to the needs and expectations of the Holy Church in the conditions of changing times. Its interpretation belongs to the Holy See and its applications will be made by the General Constitutions and particular statutes.

"The past rules were "prescriptive": spelling out concrete practices that show how deep and lasting a person's commitment was. The rule of Paul VI is "descriptive": spelling out those basic principles that give rise to practice. The principles of faith are constant, the expressions in practical action are variable yet always in accord with the basic conviction. The OFS Rule is based on this approach. It gives the basics on "what -it-means-to-be- Franciscan; it outlines the faith convictions for living the gospel in the spirit of St. Francis, leaving the details of practical action to particular statutes and personal Initiatives." Called to Proclaim Christ by Benet Fonck ,O.F.M pages 5-6

Minister's Message

Upon the arrival of 2019, I reflected on many things. I wondered if God was pleased with the way I have acted; Did I make good use of my time; of God's grace that was available to me through prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist; Did I do enough to bring Christ to those I encountered in my everyday experience; What areas can I improve in my life as a Franciscan? These were just a few of my thoughts.

Thomas of Celano writes about St. Francis at the end of his life "In the sight of God and the people of this world the glorious father had been made perfect in grace. In all he did he glowed brilliantly, yet he always kept thinking about how to undertake even more perfect deeds. Like a soldier, well trained in the battle camps of God, challenging the enemy, he wanted to stir up fresh battles. With Christ as leader he resolved "to do great deeds", and with weakening limbs and dying body, he hoped for victory over the enemy in a new struggle. True bravery knows no real limits of time, for its hope of reward is eternal." (The Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano. Second Book)

This is good for one to think about. One should never be complacent about one's pilgrimage in this world. Each new year is a call to holiness in daily life. Each day can be a mis-step into sin and a new opportunity for grace. With sorrow and gratitude, we take up the struggle and continue the journey with faith, hope and love.

St. Francis is our model. He used to say, "Let us begin again, brothers, to serve the Lord God, for until now we have done little or nothing". "He did not consider that he had already attained his goal, but tireless in pursuit

of holy newness, he constantly hoped to begin again." (Second Book. Life of St. Francis)

As we journey together in 2019, let us renew our commitment to our Franciscan vocation and "Let us begin again" in the spirit of our seraphic father St. Francis.

Bonnie Ng, O.F.S.

Spiritual Assistant News

Br. Lawrence will be leaving as Spiritual Assistant to St. Padre Pio Fraternity. He has been assigned as Spiritual Assistant to the Emerging Fraternity, Blessed Solanus Casey, located in Middleton, MD. Br. Lawrence graciously volunteered to fill our need for a Spiritual Assistant in August 2016. In addition to serving us as SA he has also been SA for St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity. In saying good-bye to Br. Lawrence as our Spiritual Assistant we wish him blessings of peace and every good wish as he journeys with another group of Secular Franciscans. We thank him for filling a vacuum when it was greatly needed and value his time with us. Br. Lawrence will be present at the January Gathering and will be bringing with him Br. Emmanuel Wenke, O.F.M. Conv. who will be our new Spiritual Assistant. We give Br. Emmanuel a very warm welcome.

Tobit 4:19 At all times bless the Lord God, and ask him to make all your paths straight and to grant success to all your endeavors and plans.

Upcoming Events

What: Day of Recollection
When: March 23, 2019
Time: 8:30 - 4:00
Where: St. Clement, Rosedale
Topic: Walking Together, an Ecumenical Journey
Presenter: Anne Mulqueen
Cost: Early bird price of \$25 until March 1st;
then \$30

Regional Retreat will be May 31st-June 2nd at
Priest Field Pastoral Center. More details to
follow when Region completes Agenda.

Franciscan Charism in the World

“We have called the Franciscan charism a demonstration that the gospel life can be successfully lived in any condition, places or time of life. It is a call given to men and women, married and celibate, priests and laymen to return to the Apostolic Age of the Church. If this be accurate, it follows that all ranks of mankind should be able to see their particular status in life being fulfilled by Franciscans somewhere and their special problems interpreted for them through the evangelical life. For this reason, Franciscans do not claim to *do* something special in the Church, but try to *mean* something special. Teachers, office workers, scientists, parish priests, clowns, cloistered women, mothers and ditch-diggers should be able to look to Franciscans for a model of the Christ—life within the present moment. To fulfill their charism, Franciscans must penetrate all of society.”

From : *The Franciscan Charism in the Third Millennium* by Anselm W. Romb ,O.F.M. Conv.
P.97.

Words of Padre Pio

“I heartily recommend that you take concern to have your heart be more pleasing to our Master day by day. Do things in such a way that the current year will be more fruitful in good works than the last. The years are passing by, and we are approaching eternity, so we need to redouble our courage and lift our souls to God, serving him with more diligence on everything that our Christian vocation or profession requires of us. This alone can make us pleasing to God. It can free us from the world that is not of him and from all our other enemies. Only this can enable us to arrive at the gate of eternal salvation.

Let us then face the present trials to which Divine Providence subjects us, but let us not lose heart or be discouraged. Let us fight hard, and we will carry off the prize that God has stored up for strong souls. Remember, the words of the Divine Master to his apostles, which he directs us: “Let not your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1). Jesus has promised his assistance to whoever follows him.”

From: *Padre Pio's Spiritual Direction For Every Day*.
Gianluigi Pasquale. P. 1

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