

The Porter

St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, MD
Secular Franciscan Order – January 2019
<http://stconradannapolis.sfousa.org/>

Council

Minister	Patrick Tyrrell, OFS	(410) 721-7308	jpatricktsfo@gmail.com
Vice Minister	Mary Henry, OFS	(443) 949-0600	mhenry933@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Kathleen Sievers, OFS	(410) 544-0618	esievers@verizon.net
Formation Director	Denise Miante, OFS	(410) 643-2782 (h) (410) 253-5555 (m)	rubob903@gmail.com
Councilor-at-Large	Judith Tyrrell, OFS	(410) 721-7308	judithtyrrellofs@gmail.com
Spiritual Assistant	Br. Diogo Escudero, OFM Cap. Br. Rigo Azanwi, OFM Cap.		friardiogoofmcap@gmail.com brorigocap@gmail.com

Volunteers

Historian	Marie Shelton	(410) 590-5570	marifrances14@outlook.com
Infirmarian	Evelyn Jones	(410) 827-9023	evelyn88jones@yahoo.com

The Porter deadline for the February issue is February 8. Please send news, prayer requests, poems, or interesting things that you think other members may enjoy to: Joan Faltot, 8217 Grainfield Rd, Severn, MD 21144, or send by email (address above).



Fraternity Meeting

Saturday, January 19, 2019
St. John the Evangelist, 607 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, MD 21146
8:30 Mass – Church. Meeting 9:15 – Youth Room

Refreshments



Annapolis/Eastern Shore. Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park will be next, so please arrange to take the supplies home and restock if necessary. *Please remember to bring your own cup!*

Liturgy

Bowie/Crofton/Severna Park: Saturday, Week 1 of Ordinary Time.

Program

Speaker: Stephen Wallace, Director of the Gabriel Network
Extraction of Saints and prayer partners; Recommitment to our Life as Secular Franciscans
Please bring your completed questionnaires to our fraternity meeting, which were previously mailed or emailed to you and also appear as attachments to the email for this issue.

Special Outreach

Gabriel Network: Although the Gabriel Network can need donations of items, such as diapers, wipes, & formula, at this time of year they are full up. However, they are always in need of cash donations and gift cards from Walmart and Target (for gift cards, \$25 or \$50 are suggested).


Prayer Requests



For our sick and/or homebound members: (Please help us update this list.) Kathleen & Ed Seivers as well as their son are all experiencing medical challenges, Joan's husband Bill Kvetkas, Rita Rossi, Pat Troup, Brigid Cobb, John McHugh (Joe's brother), Katherine (Mary Henry's daughter-in-law), Evelyn Jones' niece, Genny Wilbourne's granddaughter Jessica, Mandy (Kathleen Sievers' niece), Peggy Rideout (Mary Musselwhite's daughter), Bob Mochi (husband of our regional executive Councilor Barbara Countryman), Teri Egan, former Regional Secretary.

Profession Anniversaries

Margaret Jackson – 02/08/1998

Birthdays	Ed Wilbourne – 1/16 Tessie Chitty – 01/21 Shannon Payne – 01/25	Kathleen Sievers – 02/10 Mary Jo Johnson – 02/10 Joan Kvetkas – 02/11
Outreach	Lighthouse Shelter Lunches: Thursday, January 24, 9:30 a.m. at home of Joan Kvetkas Phoenix Academy “Backpacks”: Wednesday, January 16, 12:30 p.m. in cafeteria For more information, contact Denise	
Treasury	 <p>As is customary for our Fraternity, the Council decided to distribute “surplus” funds to charities leaving us with a balance of \$842.95. Charities selected this year: Poor Clares, Franciscan Center, Franciscan Mission Services, Mary’s Center, Hope for All, Amazon Relief, Ixcan Ministry, Glenmary Home Missioners, and Catholic Charities’ work with migrants and refugees in the US.</p> <p>REMINDER - Please remember to use the memo line of your check to designate how you wish your contribution to be directed. There are 3 possible designations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Fund (this covers fraternity operations and the Sabu family in India), • Phoenix Academy (for student weekend food packs), and • Tokens (bus tokens for the Lighthouse Shelter clients). <p>You can write one check and specify on the memo line how you wish to direct your contribution to any or all three areas. Example: \$20 Com / \$10 Phoenix / \$5 Token. None of these amounts should be interpreted as being what is expected from any particular member.</p> <p>Cash contributions are also acceptable, but checks are preferred.</p>	
Council Meeting	Annual Planning Meeting, Saturday, February 9, at Capuchin College following the 8:30am Mass	
Save the Date	May 31-Jun 2 Regional Retreat at Prestfield; registration form usually appears in the Feb Up to Now September 28 (tentative) Br. Tage Danielson’s ordination to the Priesthood in Pittsburg.	

COMMUNITY

Minister’s Minute:



Happy New Year and thank you for your generosity in 2018: you provided \$8,572 in donations to the Common Fund, including \$1,673 for the Phoenix Academy and \$634 for bus tokens for Light House Shelter’s clients. The total was almost \$1,150 more than 2017 and almost \$3,700 more than the average of the five years before 2017. We aren’t growing in numbers of members to explain that, so we must be growing in generosity. We will, as always, provide you with a full accounting of the year’s finances soon.

Next month is important for all of us—both council and fraternity—because the council will be meeting for the whole day on February 9, at Cap College to plan our 2019 programs and continuing formation.

PLEASE provide us with your input at the fraternity meeting by completing the Vision survey sent to you last week but also included on pages 7 & 8 here.

Finally, I want to thank the council members for their dedication to steering our course over the last two years. “It is the duty of the council of the local fraternity: to promote the initiatives necessary for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members and for sustaining their witness and commitment in the world...” GC Art 50.1. My duty is to see that the council’s decisions are implemented. Please let them know how you appreciate their efforts.

Finally, finally, please pray for Pope St. John XXIII Emerging Fraternity’s Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations set for Feb 6, which is the first step in their pursuit of canonical establishment.

And finally, finally, finally, please pray for me and my family and the repose of the soul of my only brother Bill, age 78, who died suddenly earlier this week at his home in Sebastian Florida. In Christ & St. Francis, Pat

JPIC -- JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION, ANIMATOR JUDITH TYRRELL, OFS

JUSTICE, AND ONLY JUSTICE, YOU SHALL PURSUE (DEUTERONOMY 16: 18-20) IS THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY. EVERY YEAR CHRISTIANS ACROSS THE WORLD GATHER IN PRAYER FOR GROWTH IN UNITY. WE DO THIS IN A WORLD WHERE CORRUPTION, GREED AND INJUSTICE BRING ABOUT INEQUALITY AND DIVISION. WE ARE CALLED TOGETHER TO FORM A UNITED WITNESS FOR JUSTICE AND FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY THAT BECOMES A MEANS FOR CHRIST'S HEALING GRACE FOR THE BROKENNESS OF THE WORLD. ONLY HEEDING JESUS'S PRAYER THAT *THEY ALL MAY BE ONE* CAN WE WITNESS TO LIVING UNITY IN DIVERSITY. (FR. TOM ORIAN, SA) SEE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE ATONEMENT.

[HTTPS://GEII.ORG/WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY/PRAYER WORSHIP/DAILY SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER GUIDE.HTML](https://geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/prayer_worship/daily_scripture_and_prayer_guide.html)

WE SEE THE SUFFERING OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE CARAVAN AND AT THE BORDER CROSSINGS AND ARE REMINDED *LORD WHEN DID WE SEE YOU A STRANGER AND WELCOME YOU? AMEN I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THESE LEAST BROTHERS OF MINE YOU DID FOR ME.* MT 25. "O LORD, GIVE US GENEROUS HEARTS TO WELCOME WITH JUST CHARITY ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL WHO SEEK TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY. MAY OUR LEADERS CRAFT FAIR LAWS THAT PROTECT THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS AND ALSO GIVE ORDERLY AND LAWFUL MEANS OF IMMIGRATION FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE TO DWELL AMONG US." (PADRE DE LA CRUZ - WWW.CATHOLICPRAYERCARDS.ORG)

WE ARE CALLED BY OUR RULE 13 TO BE READY TO PLACE OURSELVES ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WITH THE LOWLY FOR WHOM WE SHALL STRIVE TO CREATE CONDITIONS OF LIFE WORTHY OF PEOPLE REDEEMED BY CHRIST." SEE BISHOPS CAMPAIGN *JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS*. WRITE YOUR HOUSE AND SENATE REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT YOUR FRANCISCAN VALUES RE IMMIGRANTS (SEE BELOW FOR CONTACT INFO). TRY TO ATTEND THE 40TH ANNUAL SOCIAL MINISTRY CONVOCATION *SEEK JUSTICE WIN PEACE* TO BE HELD MAR 3RD AT MERCY HIGH IN BALTIMORE. RECENTLY AT THE CONVOCATION THERE WAS A PRAYER WALK FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR DONE BY CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES [HTTPS://WWW.CRS.ORG/RESOURCE-CENTER/SOLIDARITY-PRAYER-WALK](https://www.crs.org/resource-center/solidarity-prayer-walk)

ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT JUSTICE ISSUE IS FOR THE LIFE OF THE UNBORN WHO HAVE NO VOICE. LET US UNITE IN PRAYER AT THE ANNUAL CAPUCHIN PROLIFE MASS ON JANUARY 18 AT 11AM IN THE CRYPT CHURCH OF THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. THE MARCH FOR LIFE FOLLOWS ON THE MALL.

THIS PRAYER FOR LIFE REMINDS US OF THE NEED TO HELP THOSE MOTHER WHO ARE IN DISTRESS WHO DO CHOOSE LIFE. WE WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT ONE WAY TO DO THIS AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING FROM THE GABRIEL NETWORK DIRECTOR. "O GOD, GIVER OF LIFE, HELP US TO DO OUR PART TO SAVE UNBORN BABIES FROM DEATH BY ABORTION AND AID PREGNANT MOTHERS IN DISTRESS. PLEASE STRENGTHEN US IN OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AN AMENDMENT TO OUTLAW ABORTION IN THE UNITED STATES." (CINNCINATI RIGHT TO LIFE)

30 YEARS AGO OUR FAMILY HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING AND PRAYING FOR PROLIFE AND THE PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN IN EL PASO, TEXAS, WITH A JESUIT PRIEST, NOW DECEASED, FATHER RICHARD THOMAS (FR. RICK TO US) AND HIS COMMUNITY FROM THE LORD'S RANCH. WE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT HIS CAUSE IS BEING PURSUED. HIS STORY OF THE MIRACLES IN EL PASO IS A STORY OF JUSTICE FOR THE POOR MEXICAN PEOPLE LIVING IN THE DUMP OF JUAREZ AND THE MIRACULOUS MULTIPLICATION OF FOOD (LIKE WE HEARD ABOUT RECENTLY) THAT LED TO THE FEEDING OF THEIR "BROTHERS AND SISTERS" ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE IN JUAREZ, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LORD'S RANCH A PLACE TO GROW FOOD AND PROVIDE CARE, A YOUTH CENTER, THE FOOD BANK WHERE THE POOR COULD WORK AND THEN TAKE HOME A SACK OF FOOD, AND A PLACE OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP. SEE YOUTUBE VIDEO *VIVA CRISTO REY* THAT TELLS STORY. [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=AKZKXOCE43K](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKZKXOCE43K) OUR FAMILY WOULD PRAY AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AFTER PRAISE AND WORSHIP IN THE PARK NEARBY AND THEN GO TO MASS CELEBRATED BY FR. RICK AND LISTEN TO THE SHARINGS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS ABOUT WHAT THEY HAD EXPERIENCED AT THE CLINIC. WE ALL UNDERSTOOD THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE AND THE POWER OF PRAYER AND HOLY WATER AT THE ABORTION CLINIC.

To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity.
Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, 2009

Elected officials as of 1/1/2019: Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, State House, 100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1925; (410) 974-3901 or 1-800-811-8336; e-mail, see <http://governor.maryland.gov/contact-the-governors-office> ; fax: (410) 974-3275; web: www.governor.maryland.gov .

US Senators: Benjamin L. Cardin, 509 Hart Senate Office Building, DC 20510; (202) 224-4524; fax: (202) 224-1651; or 10201 Martin Luther King, Jr. Hwy, Suite 210, Bowie, MD 20720; (301) 860-0414; fax: (301) 860-0416; web: www.cardin.senate.gov ;

Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., 110 Hart Senate Office Building, DC 20510; (202) 224-4654; fax: (202) 228-0629; or 60 West St., Suite 107, Annapolis, MD 21401; (410) 263-1325; web: www.vanhollen.senate.gov

For Your Representative in the House and your Maryland State legislators, go to <https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=177afa87a67746a4ac5496b2d0897fb7> . All you do is input your street address once and up comes a complete list, which includes those above as well.

US Government Ignores Indian Rights... Again

Extracts from EarthJustice blog. Read the whole story at:

<https://earthjustice.org/blog/2018-december/agency-nixes-fracking-leases-on-pawnee-tribal-land>

In 2015 Walter Echo-Hawk, a member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, discovered fracking operations near his home on Pawnee lands about 55 miles west of Tulsa. Echo-Hawk called the oil company responsible to find out more information. The company stonewalled him. He then contacted several government agencies. Eventually, Echo-Hawk learned the truth: Two years prior, regulators had approved 17 oil and gas leases on Pawnee lands. They didn't bother to notify the tribe.

Echo-Hawk immediately began mobilizing fellow tribal members to fight the leases. But regulators at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management said it was too late. The leases had already been approved. The agencies also claimed the Pawnee couldn't take them to court because the tribe had failed to ask for reconsideration of those decisions when they were made. The Pawnee, however, hadn't been aware of the decisions because the agencies — in violation of their own rules — neglected to notify the tribe in any way.

Government regulators didn't bother to address the earthquake risk when approving the leases. Nor did they address the impacts of drilling near the Cimarron River, a 698-mile cinnamon- and paprika-colored ribbon of water that supports a native fishery protected under Pawnee tribal law. The government authorized the oil and gas company to suck millions of gallons of water from the Cimarron for fracking. Regulators also approved drilling operations on the river's floodplain, where a spill of oil or fracking chemicals could contaminate the Cimarron, which tribal members like Echo-Hawk rely on to recharge their domestic water wells.

Earthjustice has filed lawsuits on behalf of the Pawnee Nation. To date, of the 17 oil and gas leases, 10 have expired and 3 were invalidated after agency review. Drilling on four leases continues even though they have the same legal defect as the invalidated leases.

Update on the Dakota Access Pipeline & Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

<https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2018/standing-rock-sioux-tribe-renews-legal-challenge-against-dapl>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a brief decision on Aug. 31, 2018, affirming its original decision to issue a construction permit for the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). The decision comes a year after a federal court decision finding that the Army Corps decision violated federal laws and failed to consider the risks and impacts of oil spills. So on November 1, 2018, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe working with Earthwatch lawyers renewed their law suit and filed a supplemental complaint in its existing case against the US Army Corps of Engineers challenging their review of the pipeline's impact.

At risk is Lake Oahe which is central to the Tribe's culture and economy. According to Earthjustice, the Corps ignored an extensive body of technical material prepared by the Tribe showing that the risks of an oil spill from DAPL — which is managed by companies with the worst safety and compliance record in the nation — are much higher than disclosed.

INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center, Marriotsville, MD, is presenting the following “Eye Openers Film & Discussion sessions” sponsored by their JPIC Committee and they are FREE

March 1 @ 6:45 pm - 9:00 pm. **Thirty Seconds to Midnight: The Final Wake Up Call**

This shocking documentary traces the origins of U.S. genocides, military interventions and wars from the 15th century when the white, colonial explorers first came to the Americas to the very present. American Exceptionalism, Manifest Destiny, and the right to claim Earth and its resources as their own are the beliefs that are the foundation of American foreign policy in the 21st Century that has humanity on the brink of extinction. Information & Registration:

<https://rccbonsecours.com/event/eye-openers-film-discussion-series-3/>

May 9 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. **A Vision of Nonviolence – A Presentation by John Dear.** John Dear is an American Catholic priest, Christian pacifist, advocate, author, lecturer and internationally recognized voice for peace. He has been arrested over 75 times in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience against war, injustice and nuclear weapons as part of his “consistent ethic of nonviolence”. In 2008 John Dear was nominated by Archbishop Desmond Tutu for the Nobel Peace Prize.

<https://rccbonsecours.com/event/eye-openers-film-discussion/>

VISION FOR OUR FRATERNITY FOR 2019: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

On pages 7 and 8 is our fraternity's survey “VISION FOR OUR FRATERNITY FOR 2019: REFLECTION QUESTIONS” The purpose of this “survey” is to obtain your input to the fraternity Council, which will meet all day February 9, to plan the rest of our year's programs and continuing formation. Remembering that Rule 21 and Article 31 of the General Constitutions state that the Council is to “animate and guide” the fraternity, we seek your guidance to fulfill this part of our responsibilities. Your thoughts about the past year and the year to come have been important to us over the years in planning our fraternity meetings. A summary of last year's meetings is also provided on page 6 to help you.

Please consider this a top priority between now and January 19. Please make it your personal goal to complete the survey before the meeting and bring your surveys to the meeting.

We prefer you put your name on it in case we have questions about your input, but you are not required to do so. If you are not going to be at the meeting, please mail or email it to me at: 1732 Tarrytown Ave, Crofton 21114 or jpatricktsfo@gmail.com as soon as possible (but preferably before the meeting and no later than Jan 22), as it takes time to compile the responses.

Summary of Meetings and Continuing Formation Programs In 2018 In St. Conrad Fraternity

JANUARY - The Rule: Small group discussions on how we have personally experienced parts of the Rule; how we can live the Rule more fully; and how the area groups have or could contribute to building up the Kingdom of God and how the groups and the fraternity can live the Rule more fully. Pat introduced this one, but there was no formal presentation, just the group discussions. We also renewed our commitment to the Franciscan life and received prayer partners and saints for the year.

FEBRUARY - Lenten Day of Recollection with St. Francis Fraternity at Capuchin College about conversion and responding to God's calls in our lives and fasting and almsgiving with a Holy Hour of guided meditation, with Brs Dave, Saúl, and Diogo.

MARCH - Prayer: Remain In Me--Relationship, Intity, and Mission – We need prayer to put Jesus in the center of our lives, because activism (too many works and not enough prayer) can be a curse. Our Relationship with God produces our Intity as His children which informs and powers our Mission of spreading the Good News. Br. Diogo gave the presentation.

APRIL – The meeting occurred on the Feast of St. Conrad this year and we heard about his life (Dec 22 this year was the 200th anniversary of his birth) and how our fraternity got its name with recollections of the early life of the fraternity. By Judith, Joan Faltot (speaking about the gift of hospitality) and Joan Kvetkas (early life of the fraternity).

MAY – Indoor picnic; renewed our pledge to Care 4 Creation. Info-tour of the Care for Creation (C4C) garden at Our Lady of the Fields and talk about other C4C topics cancelled because of weather.

JUNE - 40th Anniversary of the Rule (June 24th); History of the OFS Rule and 17 Elements of Franciscan Spirituality by Joan Faltot.

JULY - Followup/report out on Regional Chapter of Mats (6/29 – 7/1) with an exercise in small groups based on the ones we experienced in “small fraternities” at the Chapter—which parts of the rule are easy to follow, and which more challenging? How might we deal more successfully with those that are challenging? How can we better live the Rule? Pat & Judith and others.

AUGUST - Beth & Bill Hadley speak about human sex trafficking and The Samaritan Women ministry in Baltimore (suggested by Kathleen Sievers).

SEPTEMBER - Presentation by Fr. Michael Rubeling and Transitional Deacon Justin Gough from St. John the Evangelist, entitled Adoration 101 (suggested by Kathleen Sievers), in lieu of the planned talk by a representative from the Phoenix Academy, one of our apostolates, who was unable to attend.

OCTOBER - “Open House” meeting with talks by our Spiritual Assistants on vocations and how to discern them (with 3 new visitors present).

NOVEMBER – Profession at Capuchin College of three new members (two of whom belong to the Pope St. John XXIII Emerging Fraternity).

DECEMBER - Christmas Party and short reflections focusing on the humility of the Incarnation by our Spiritual Assistants on Bonaventure's Tree of Life and life as a perpetual Advent (becoming aware of the darkness in us and the constant presence of God in our lives) followed by a time of reflection and large group sharing. We also welcomed Ruth Shea to begin Inquiry and heard a presentation on a Boy Scout's Eagle project of a Franciscan prayer garden he plans to construct at St. John the Evangelist.

VISION FOR OUR FRATERNITY FOR 2019: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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1. Last year our theme was *Called to Live the Rule* (40th Anniversary of our current Rule). See the accompanying summary of our meetings and specific subjects that were covered in our continuing formation last year.

What if any overall themes do you think might be appropriate for 2019?

Whether or not you suggest an overall theme, what types of continuing formation would you like at the fraternity meetings? What topics and/or formats, etc.?

Do you have any particular speakers, activities, or discussion ideas in mind to address your suggested themes or topics?

Are you willing to take responsibility to either coordinate and/or lead a particular meeting or meetings?

In light of the fact that we had three meetings in 2018 that dealt with the Rule (Jan, Jun, Jul) and in light of the fact that the International Minister declared a Jubilee Year of the Rule that continues until late June 2019, how many, if any, of this year’s meetings should deal specifically with discussions about the Rule, similar to the ones we had in January and July?

2. What contact or activities have you had within the last calendar year with your Area Group or any other members besides the monthly fraternity meetings?

3. What are your gifts? How would you like to share your gifts at our meetings or in our apostolates/ministries? Is there a talk you would like to give or a project you would like to work on?

4. In addition to supporting a family in India, we supported local causes such as the Light House Shelter – monthly sandwiches and bus tokens; Phoenix Academy; and Apostleship of the Sea. In addition, this year, we provided financial support to The Samaritan Women, Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, Franciscan Center, Mary’s Center, Franciscan Mission Service, Amazon Relief, Ixcán Ministries, Glenmary Home Missioners, Catholic Charities USA (hurricane relief and immigrant and refugee services), H.O.P.E for All.

Should we increase, decrease, or change our donations and/or outreach activities?

5. Any other thoughts, questions, comments, or suggestions for changes or improvements?