

THE LITTLE PORTION

February 2019

Next Fraternity Gathering

February 25, 2019

St. Joan of Arc Meeting House

Law Street
Aberdeen, MD

AGENDA

7:30 pm: **Opening Prayer** page 35 of Ritual Book
Liturgy of the Hours: Monday of the 7th Week in Ordinary Time: **Evening Prayer-p. 872**

Hymn: #155 The Church's One Foundation
p.1677

Presider: Stan Glodek

Antiphonarian: Joan Jackson

Reader: Mary Simmons

8 pm: **Ongoing Formation:** Discussion of the Introduction of the book *Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition*. Please read the Introduction p.7 and 8.

9 pm **Closing Prayer** followed by **Social**.

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

Margaret Wise

Olivia (Bonnie's granddaughter)

For all those in our Book of Intentions



Bonnie Ng 3/22

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Fraternity

Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus
St. Margaret of Cortona Region



Upcoming Events

What: Day of Reflection

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.

Fraternity Voting Results on Charity Donations

In November, Fraternity members were given a ballot to choose two apostolates for which we would give a monetary donation. Margaret Wise phoned or emailed members who were absent for the voting. Margaret reported at the January Council Meeting that members voted for the Franciscan Center in Baltimore and the Padre Pio Foundation. The donations will be \$20 and will alternate monthly between the two. The Fraternity also voted to buy newborn baby items to give to Birthright at Christmas in honor of the Birth of Jesus. Also the Fraternity will donate a \$100 gift card for food to a family in need at Christmas.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:16



At the January Gathering, the Fraternity had the pleasure of meeting and welcoming our new Spiritual Assistant, Br. Emmanuel Wenke, O.F. M. Conv. Br Emmanuel is from Olean, New York, a small town in the southern tier of the west end of the state. He is the eldest of six, having one sister and four brothers. Br. Emmanuel discerned his vocation in later high school/early college years and joined the Conventual Friars in 2012. He is a religious educator /youth minister by training. Br. Emmanuel holds a degree in Theology and a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.. Brother currently teaches freshman and sophomore theology at Archbishop Curley High School. Br. Emmanuel stated that he “ loves any opportunity to be involved with my Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters” and looks forward to “ celebrating and growing in our Franciscan identity.”

The Fraternity expressed appreciation to Br. Lawrence for his time and service to us. Br. Lawrence agreed to come back to give a talk for Ongoing Formation on one of the sections of *Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition*.

“God calls you to make definitive choices and he has a plan for each of you: to discover that plan and to respond to your vocation is to move toward personal fulfillment. God calls each of us to be holy, to live his life, but He has a particular for each one of us.” *Pope Francis ' Little Book of Wisdom p.122*

Words of St. Padre Pio

Charity, joy and peace are the virtues that perfect the soul concerning what it already possesses, while patience perfects the soul concerning the things it must endure.

These four virtues are for the interior perfection of the soul. However, for external perfection the soul needs a variety of virtues, some of which concern our behavior toward our neighbor and some of which concern the disciplining of our senses.

As for the virtues that the soul needs in connection to our neighbor, kindness is paramount, by means of which a devout soul is characterized as being pleasant, courteous, civil, and averse to every kind of rudeness. That soul thus draws others by these qualities to an imitation of the devout life.

From: Padre Pio's Spiritual Direction For Every Day. by Gianluigi Pasquale. P.130

Council Members

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Treasurer: Stan Glodek	410- 838 -0461
Formation Director: Allen Siegel	
Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Ng	
Spiritual Assistant:	
Br. Emmanuel Wenke, O.F.M. Conv.	301-346-4799

Cancellation Policy Due To Weather

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

Article 7 of the Rule

7. United by their vocation as “ brothers and sisters of penance,” and 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”. Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

On this road of renewal, the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father’s mercy and the source of grace.

“ We must move, flow towards Christ. St. Francis, following the spirit of the Gospel, called it penance, which (in the biblical sense) means change of heart. It is an ongoing process in which we must be involved. When you speak about a radical interior change, you are necessarily speaking about a change that will be arduous, illusive and demanding.

If we have any doubts as to what we must change in order to accomplish a radical change, St. Peter suggests: “ Do your best to add goodness to your faith; and to your goodness add knowledge, to your knowledge add self-control; to your self-control add endurance; to your endurance add godliness, to your godliness add brotherly love; to your brotherly love add love. These are the only qualities you need, and if you have them in abundance, they will make you active and effective in your knowledge of our Lord “ (2 Pet 1;5-8).”

From: *Called to Live the Dynamic Power of the Gospel. Commentary on the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.* by Philip Marquard, OFM p.25-26.

Minster’s Message

Fr. Marquard’s comments on article 7 of the Rule, caused me to think about the struggle that we all partake everyday because of our sinfulness due to our human state. This change of heart involves work on our part. It involves knowledge of our weaknesses and imperfections. Such knowledge of one’s self involves an honesty that our human nature resists to uncover. This knowledge is often realized the hard way by our mistakes or situations we find ourselves in. A truthful spiritual friend can provide insights if we are willing to listen with an open mind and heart. Our best intentions to improve often fail. I know that I have made mistakes and due to human nature will likely make other mistakes on the journey. Sometimes we get discouraged. That is the time I know I most need the Lord in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. The important thing that I am mindful of is that God’s grace is always available for the will to persevere and engage in the struggle. It is prayer that leads to God and brings light to conversion. We answered the call to the Franciscan Secular Order to follow Francis’s way of conversion as brothers and sisters of penance. To strive for conversion, we must continually stay on the path of prayer and spiritually support each other.

Bonnie Ng, ofs