

## THE LITTLE PORTION

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Fraternity

MAY 2019

Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region



### Next Fraternity Gathering

May 13, 2019

St. Joan of Arc Meeting House  
Law Street, Aberdeen, MD

### AGENDA

7:30 pm: **Opening Prayer** page 35 of Ritual Book Crown **Rosary**. May is the Month of Our Lady and we will honor her by praying the Crown Rosary. (**Whoever has an extra Crown Rosary please bring so that those who do not have one may borrow.**) No need to bring Liturgy of the Hours Book.

**Welcoming Ceremony for Richard Elliott**  
**Short Business Meeting**

**Ongoing Formation:** Discovering The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition. Read Chapter 1 pages 9-22 in preparation for discussion. Questions 1 and 2 on page 22 will be discussed.

**Facilitator - Ginger Bahr**

9:00 pm. **Closing Prayer** followed by the **Social**.

### Upcoming Event - Regional Retreat

**Where:** Priest Field Pastoral Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430-3742

**When:** May 31 - June 2, 2019

**What:** TBA

**Presenter:** Br. Michael Meza, OFM

**When:** May 31 - June 2, 2019

**Who:** All Secular Franciscans, including Candidates, Inquirers and Spiritual Assistants

**Registration Form must be sent before May 23rd**

### Apostolate Donation for April

\$20 to The Franciscan Center

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

The Simmons Family especially Ed Jr.  
Ron Teller  
Jeffrey Teller Jr.  
Wes Wise  
Benjamin Elliott  
For all those in our Book of Intentions



### Professions



#### April Professions:

Joy LaCour	4/19/98
Jo Magness-Murtaugh	4/19/98
Donna Willard	4/24/06

#### May Professions

Virginia Bahr	5/18/13
Margaret Wise	5/24/04

Only in God is my soul at rest from him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed at all. Psalm 62: 2-3

#### \_Council Members

Minister: Bonnie Ng:	410-836- 9671
Vice Minister: Margaret Wise:	443-327-7502
Secretary: Virginia Bahr:	410-838-7836
Treasurer: Stan Glodek	410- 838 -0461l
Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Ng	
Spiritual Assistant:	

## Minister's Message

Pax et Bonum is the greeting St. Francis gave to all he met. Peace is the first greeting Jesus said to the apostles after His Resurrection.

“My peace I leave you, my peace I give you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled.” John 14:27. These words our Lord said before He began His Passion. The peace Jesus wants us to have is interior peace. We are so accustomed to saying the greeting of peace at Mass, it has become second nature. Do we truly understand inner peace? How necessary it is to our Christian vocation? How difficult it is to maintain given our human nature?

Jacques Philippe in his book, *The Eight Doors of the Kingdom* states that “Christ strongly invites us to be at peace, embracing God’s peace in our hearts. Someone whose heart is not at peace will be vulnerable to the force of division and all the cycles of fear and violence that trouble the world.” (p.184-185). The state of the world and culture can certainly disrupt one’s peace. Yet more often than not, the threat to our peace comes from within ourselves; confusion, need for control; need for recognition and appreciation; anxiety about everyday problems and endless more.

St. Paul tells us “The Lord is at hand. Don’t be anxious; instead give thanks in all your prayers and petitions and make your requests known to God. And God’s peace which is beyond all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Phil.4: 5-7.

Interior peace begets confidence in and openness to God. Fr. Philippe tells us that “Peace is needed to discern well. If one is not at peace but is instead troubled, anxious, or agitated, swept by a torrent of emotions, one lacks an objective view of reality and is tempted to take a negative view of everything and call into question its value” (p.188). How often have we been guilty of calling into question the good we are trying to do in our work, our ministry or family life when we have been disturbed by various situations in our lives?

Fr. Phillippe advises “ When a problem causes you to lose your peace, don’t hurry to resolve the problem in hopes of regaining peace, but first regain a modicum of peace and then see what can be done about the problem, In this way one avoids hasty, precipitous decisions ruled by fear and doesn’t make the mistake of tormenting oneself trying to solve a problem about which you can do nothing, as people often do. But how to regain this modicum of peace? Basically, by putting oneself in God’s hands in fervent prayer, making acts of faith and hope and meditating on Scripture passages that invite one to trust. And sometimes by opening one’s heart to somebody who can help.” (p.189-190).

My brothers and sisters, I wish you the peace that only Jesus can give. Pax et Bonum!

Bonnie Ng, O.F.S.

The Blessed Virgin had always the majesty of God, and her own nothingness, present to her mind. – St. Bernadine of Siena

“After Jesus Christ, who is King of the humble, what a beautiful example of humility we have in the Blessed Virgin Mary who is their Queen! No creature ever surpassed her in merit, or exceeded her in humility. By her humility she deserved to be the Mother of God, and by humility only she maintained the dignity and honor of the sublime Maternity. Mary humbled herself as much as lay in her power; and she continued in this deep humility all through her life, behaving in all things as the servant of the Lord, without ever attributing to herself the slightest glory for being His Mother. What a beautiful example for us! Therefore, if we have devotion to our Lady we ought to try and imitate her in her humility; and in all the prayers, Communions and mortifications that we offer in her honor let us always ask her to obtain for us through her intercession the grace of holy humility. There is no grace that our Blessed Lady asks so willingly of Jesus for her devotees, and which Jesus concedes so willingly to Mary as the grace of humility, since both Jesus and Mary hold this virtue in singular affection.” From: *Know Thyself: 100 Guided Meditation on Humility of Heart*. Adapted from the writings of Rev. Fr. Cajetan da Bergamo. Edited and compiled by Ryan Grant. 2018 Tan Books. Pages 133-134.

#### **Prayer of St. Francis**

O my Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you for the great love you have shown me. For it is a token of great love if the Lord punishes his servant well or his faults in this life, so that he may not be punished in the next.

[Br. Lawrence LaFlame sends his greeting of a Blessed Easter Season to St. Padre Pio Fraternity.](#)

## **Day of Reflection**

for Inquirers, Candidates and Newly Professed

Roland Willard and I attended the Day of Reflection on April 13, 2019. About 75 people attended on a lovely day at the Shrine of St. Anthony. Hispanics were encouraged to attend which comprised about half of the group. Electronic devices were provided for translation for the talks and during Mass, part was in English and part in Spanish. We also had a small group session where we had translations from English to Spanish and Spanish to English.

Fr. Paul Dressler, OFM Capuchin gave two talks – one on joy and one on darkness. The first talk was on Joy. He referenced the *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel) by Pope Francis and Isaiah 9:1 – “Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress.” A few of the comments he made: The most used words in the Bible are Love, Peace, Joy. Joy is a sign of faith coming from a deep place inside. Let go of expectations and be open to what God wants. Hold on to faith and trust in God – surrender. Be a witness of a different way of living in the world. What is getting in the way of a relationship with God?

The second talk was on four areas of darkness. 1) Division (diabolical, to tear apart) – God wants to unite. We belong to one another. 2) Denial – We want to push away from uncomfortable truth and inconvenience. Ask God to enlighten our hearts. 3) Discouragement – Don’t let our sin discourage us as God’s mercy is stronger. 4) Delay – We postpone enacting the will of God. No matter what we are going through, we need not lose our joy or delay in carrying out God’s Will. Don’t let fear keep you from living fully. Replace fear with God’s love. He also mentioned two books: [The Irresistible Revolution](#) by Shane Claiborne and [Tattoos on the Heart](#) by Greg Boyle. Both are related to social justice. I have read [Tattoos on the Heart](#) and highly recommend it.

I found this retreat to be very worthwhile.

Anne Dulik

## Our Candidates and their Sponsors



L-R Mary Simmons, Anne Dulik, Rolland Willard and Donna Willard

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the fraternity celebrated The Rite of Admission for Anne Dulik and Roland Willard. Mary Simmons is the sponsor for Anne. Anne and Mary met over 20 years ago through a mutual friend at a prayer group. As Donna's husband, Roland has been known to most of us in the fraternity and many of us have already considered him as part of our family before he began initial formation. It was a joy filled evening for all of us. St. Padre Pio Fraternity is delighted to have Anne and Roland as members of our fraternity. Welcome Anne and Roland! Know that we, your brothers and sisters, support you as you journey on the road of candidacy to follow your call. We give thanks to our Lord Jesus, St. Francis, St. Clare and our patron St. Padre Pio for the gift of both of you.

### Our Blessed Mother

"Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Mother too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did"  
(St. Maximilian Kolbe)

"Always stay close to this Heavenly Mother, because she is the sea to be crossed to reach the shores of Eternal Splendor" (St. Padre Pio)

"Mary seeks for those who approach her devoutly and with reverence, for such she loves, nourishes, and adopts as her children." (St. Bonaventure)

"Mary's sole object in this world was to keep her eyes constantly focused on God so as to discover His will. Then when she had found out what God wanted, she did it." (St. Bernadine of Siena)

Rule 9 of the Rule *"The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently."*

[Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.](#)



Did you know.....

That the Angelus is of Franciscan origin, being attributed to St. Bonaventure