

The Porter

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




Council

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Volunteers

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The Porter deadline for the July issue is July 7. **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, June 15, 2019 St. John the Evangelist, 607 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park, MD 21146 8:30 Mass – Church. Meeting 9:15 – Youth Room		
 Refreshments	Glen Burnie/Pasadena but Bowie/Crofton has supplies. Annapolis/Eastern Shore will be next, so please arrange to take the supplies home and restock if necessary. <i>Please remember to bring your own cup!</i>		
Liturgy	Welcoming Ceremony for Carole Marsh Rite of Admission for Ruth Shea and Peggy Tippet Ceremony on the Anniversary of Profession for members who professed in 1979 or before.		
Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates present on their experiences of community/fraternity in light of our annual theme of Gospel Life in Fraternity and the World and Rules 13 and 20-26. • Twelve members who attended the Regional Retreat and have been asked if they would like to make a brief comment of something significant they experienced on the retreat. 		
 Prayer Requests	<i>For our sick and/or homebound members:</i> (Please help us update this list) Marlane Peterson (president of Ixcan Ministries), Mary Henry, Ruth Shea's daughter Anne (kidney tumor removed on May 20), Audrey Donnelly, Joan's husband Bill Kvetkas, Pat Troup, Brigid Cobb, Joe McHugh's brother John, Mary Henry's daughter-in-law Katherine, Evelyn Jones' niece, Genny Wilbourne's granddaughter Jessica, Kathleen Sievers' niece Mandy and her son Michael.		
Profession Anniversaries	Susan Burns – 7/13/2013	Judith Tyrrell – 7/14/1991	
Birthdays	Lita Millan – 06/22	Santa Matarazza -- 7/20	
Treasury	Current balance: \$ 1,042.28. Please remember that there was <u>no</u> fraternity collection last month at our picnic so, if possible, please make it up this month and/or next.		

Outreach	<p>Lighthouse Shelter Lunches: Thursday, June 27, 9:30 a.m. at home of Joan Kvetkas.</p> <p>NOTE: The lunch group will increase their output from 50 to 100 lunches in June thru September. These lunches are used not only at the shelter but for other needy persons in the community, especially kids who no longer have the benefit of the school lunch program.</p> <p>Phoenix Academy “Backpacks”: No backpacks until September; however, contributions are still needed for the Academy’s community outreach during the summer when they try to provide fresh food to the community.</p>
Council Meeting	Tuesday, June 9, 7:00pm at the Tyrrells’ home.
Save the Date	<p>September 7 (tentative) Br. Rigo’s ordination to the Transitional Diaconate at the Shrine in DC.</p> <p>September 28 (tentative) Br. Tage Danielson’s ordination to the Priesthood in Pittsburgh.</p>

COMMUNITY



Minister’s Minute:

Twelve of our members were among those (probably about 70) who attended the Regional retreat at Priest Field, WV, two weekends ago. We all enjoyed Br. Michael Meza’s humor (primarily about himself) and zeal for our vocation. He was a Secular and the vice-minister of his fraternity 10 years ago when he quit to join the Capuchins. He focused his talks on the first part of Rule 6, telling us to deepen our vocation by becoming thoroughly convicted that God loves us and calls us to a conversion of heart, so that we might be better equipped to love and serve others.

Lent is gone and Easter season ended. But Br. Mike told us not to let Pentecost be an end to these seasons this year. Rather, we should treat Pentecost as a beginning—to live in the power of the Holy Spirit that we received in the Sacrament of Baptism and was strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation. We make a deeper commitment to living our baptism when we make our Profession. As Fr. Benet Fonck, OFM, wrote:

One’s profession in the Secular Franciscan Order is a special way of intensifying the effect of baptism. Entering a secular or religious order is not another sacrament, like ordination or marriage, precisely because its intent and result is identical to baptism, but on a deeper level. For example, a person may play a simple melody on the piano all by itself; that same melody is played again with harmonics and chords to give it an even greater richness, depth, and fulfillment. So, profession directs, intensifies, and deepens the “melody” of Christian life first played at baptism. From Fonck, *Called to Follow Christ*.

So let’s look at the cross, live our Rule, and love our neighbor as this Jubilee Year of the Rule ends this month and not look back, but forward. Let us, in the words of Rule 7, “conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls ‘conversion.’” And in our “human frailty” let us remember to do it “daily,” as Rule 7 also tells us. *Carpe Diem!*

Pat

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

From the Priestfield Trail Guidebook JUSTICE is the virtue of giving what is due to both God and neighbor. St Stephen pursued justice in his work with the poor and in his mercy for his persecutors.

In Rule 6 we read “They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.”

Brother Michael Meza OFM Cap who spoke to us at the Priestfield Regional Retreat asked the question “Do I wake up and say yes to my profession as a Secular Franciscan and the call to be an “instrument of peace”? Do I who was baptized “priest, prophet and king” offer sacrifices of myself as **priest** to bring peace where there is hatred? As **prophet** am I one who speaks out what the Church teaches (without fear of consequences)? Or as **king do I** realize I am a part of the kingdom of heaven and the larger Regional, National and International Franciscan family with a commitment to say a “deeper yes” to my mission as a Secular Franciscan.

During lunch one day at the Retreat Gil Donahue our Regional JPIC Coordinator shared with us that he thinks that our focus as Seculars at this time needs to be on Advocacy. We have a mission **to do Justice**. He sent to us in March 2019 his JPIC Presentation, which is attached. In his outline of JPIC there are four points regarding Justice: Righting wrongs, Protecting the weak, Addressing systemic issues, and Active healing of individuals and society. His five Arenas for Action are the Family, Community/Fraternity, State, Nation and the World. He describes our commitment as our CALLS as stated in the Rule.

So let us reread this JPIC Presentation sent to us by Gil with the renewed fervor of the Holy Spirit. Let us PRAY, LISTEN and ACT with renewed zeal to fulfill our mission to proclaim Christ by our life and words as encouraged by Brother Mike. Let us reread the Rule 15 and Article 22 and 23 of the Constitutions. “Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting **justice** by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives.” And pray and think about how we might ACT to promote justice. And praise God for how we already are!

We have heard this before.... what are the issues that you are passionate about? How can you be an Advocate for that issue? We pledge each year to be an Advocate for the poor and for creation doing our St. Francis/Pope Francis Pledge... “Advocate for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable” What can you do? You can pray, you can write, you can speak out in the public forum, you can attend rallies, you can put up posters, you can be a voice in Congress, in the local Legislature, you can serve the poor, the sick and the needy, you can save babies and the elderly..... Here a few recent articles of issues that might get you going for nonviolence and the poor of our city. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/local-opinions/im-a-baltimore-public-defender-corruption-in-the-city-is-a-slap-in-the-face-to-my-clients/2019/06/07/579a2bf8-8704-11e9-a870-b9c411dc4312_story.html?utm_term=.ff364f504526
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/after-virginia-beach-the-list-of-mass-shooting-victims-grows-yet-again/2019/06/07/b2d8ab62-8622-11e9-98c1-e945ae5db8fb_story.html?utm_term=.04d454d84ad6

Brother Meza challenged all of us to PRAY AND LISTEN TO A DEEPER YES, MORE ACTION TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS of the LOVE OF GOD FOR EVERYONE.

From Jean Vanier’s book WE NEED EACH OTHER...P. 77 “In this world where there is corruption, division and injustice, where there is a great divide between rich and the poor and where there are armed conflicts, Jesus is sending his messengers. We are all his messengers, empowered to bring peace to our world and to discover that, through love and wisdom, we can build communities of love, signs of peace in the world.

JPIC PRESENTATION TO TAU FRATERNITY



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Gil Donahue
JPIC Coordinator
St. Margaret of Cortona Region
Secular Franciscan Organization
March 2019

WHAT IS JPIC?

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Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

- > **Integral to the Gospel**
- > **Fundamental to Catholic Social Teaching**
- > **Both religious and lay people are important contributors**

JUSTICE

- 1. Righting wrongs**
- 2. Protecting the weak**
- 3. Addressing systemic issues**
- 4. Active healing of individuals and society**

PEACE

- 1. Cessation of violence and chaos**
- 2. Intermediation**
- 3. Providing safety and security**
- 4. Spiritual comfort**

INTEGRITY OF CREATION

- 1. Kinship of all creation**
- 2. Stewardship of the environment**
- 3. Appreciation of nature**

POVERTY

- 1. Material poverty vs. wealth**
- 2. Spiritual poverty vs. blindness**

HOW DOES JPIC RELATE TO CATHOLICISM?

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Scriptural references underlying JPIC:

God is Love (1 Jn 4:8)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself” (MT 22:36-39)

“Go into all the world to teach the Gospel” (Mt 28:19-20)

“Do to others as you would have them do to you” (LK 6:31)

The Beatitudes:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Mt 5:1-11)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37)

THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN RULE

Chapter Two

Para 4 - Our relationship to the Gospel

Para 5 - The call to encounter Christ in each other

Para 6 - The call to witness to Christ and rebuild the church

Para 7 - The call to continuous conversion and personal transformation

Para 8 - The call to prayer, contemplation and participation in the sacraments

Para 9 - The call to imitate Mary's complete self-giving

Para 10 - The call to fulfill our duties and witness to Christ

Para 11 - The call to detach from temporal goods and simplify material needs

Para 12 - The call to be free to love God and our fellow humans

Para 13 - The call to accept all people as a gift of the Lord; solidarity with the needy

Para 14 - The call to build a more fraternal and evangelical world

Para 15 - The call to promote justice

Para 16 - The call to regard our work as a gift and to use our talents to further God's kingdom on earth

Para 17 - The call to cultivate peace, fidelity and respect for life within the family

Para 18 - The call to respect all creatures and embrace universal kinship

Para 19 - The call to seek unity and harmony through dialogue, and strive to bring joy and hope to others

HOW CAN WE LIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH JPIC?

FIVE ARENAS FOR ACTION:

FAMILY

Suggested actions: Seek ways to simplify our lives by carefully weighing our purchases, decluttering and donating unused clothing and other items, limiting our carbon footprint, and adopting eco-friendly and green policies.

COMMUNITY (FRATERNITY)

Suggested actions: Seek opportunities to assist those in need, encourage eco-friendly policies, and stand up for the downtrodden.

STATE

Suggested actions: Research and advocate for state legislation on social issues, including health, education, housing and other forms of assistance to the poor. Advocate on behalf of the needy to improve systemic and structural issues that affect them.

NATION

Suggested actions: Research and support policies and legislation aimed at supporting the poor and needy, as well as sustaining the environment.

WORLD

Suggested actions: Learn more about, and closely follow, important international issues: efforts to build peace, further the rule of law, and protect the environment. Support international organizations that provide relief and assist with poverty reduction. Educate others about the needs beyond our shores.



Members from St. Conrad Fraternity and John XXIII Emerging Fraternity who attended the Annual Regional Retreat at Priest Field Retreat Center, Kearneysville, WV, with Br. Michael Meza, OFM Cap, who led the retreat.

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIONAL RETREAT Deepening Our Vocation

A tribute to Brother Michael Meza, OFM, Cap. by Bettie Onorato, OFS, Little Flower fraternity

You have been a blessing with the many gifts you've shared,
you opened up your heart and showed us that you cared.

As we breathe in God's Spirit we are refreshed within,
we rid ourselves of worldly things that causes us to sin.
It's important to be humble as Saint Francis was humble too,
If we imitate him our lives will be renewed.

As Franciscans we need to challenge to make a difference every day,
to be a witness to the world in what we do and say.

We must see Christ in everyone and love them where they are,
for God made them in his image as his bright and shining stars.

We can't live out our vocation unless we feel Christ's pain,
we must go forth no matter what and witness in his name.

By living our Baptism, Confirmation and Reconciliation God will change our faith,
so we will have a deep conviction within as people of his faith.

We renew our vows each Easter and give God another yes,
now it's time to reflect and give him our very best.
You've shared with us many things that have happened in your life,
like the bowl of Hosts that spoke to you, part of the Body of Christ.
Then there is your humor as you confessed your anger as a man,
don't have a fix for that, I guess you need a conversion van.
We're on a mission to build up our church which is yearning for new growth,
we'll go out with the Rule of Life and many seeds to sow.

There is someone out there longing to make his life complete,
we will offer him what you have taught us on this great Retreat.
We have learned much from you, so we'll take the joy of Jesus everywhere,
and no matter where you are we'll keep you in our prayers.

FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY – JUNE 13

In celebration of the feast day of St. Anthony, the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City will have the following events:

Monday, June 10, 7:00 PM To Wed., June 12, 8:00 PM	Feast of St. Anthony Triduum special Triduum of Prayer and Preaching to prepare for St. Anthony's Feast Day! Monday through Wednesday June 10th, 11th, and 12th at 7pm in the Shrine Chapel
Thursday, June 13 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Charismatic Mass in honor of the Feast Day of St. Anthony.