

## THE LITTLE PORTION

June 2019

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Fraternity

Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus  
St. Margaret of Cortona Region



### Next Fraternity Gathering

June 24, 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:** June  
24<sup>th</sup> The Birth of John the  
Baptist  
**President:** Donna Willard  
**Antiphonarian:** Ginger Bahr  
**Reader:** Mary Simmons  
**Hymn:** Amazing Grace #173  
page 1695  
**Evening Prayer II** on page  
1176  
Ant. 1 p.1176  
**Psalms from Common of  
Holy Men** page 1456  
**Short Business Meeting-**  
Treasurer's Report  
**Ongoing Formation:**  
Discovering The Franciscan  
Intellectual Tradition  
**Questions 3 and 4** on page  
22 will be discussed.  
**Facilitator: Donna Willard**  
**Closing Prayer** followed by  
Social

#### Council Members

Minister: Bonnie Ng:  
410-836-9671  
Vice Minister: Margaret Wise:  
443-327-7502  
Secretary: Virginia Bahr:  
410-838-7836  
Treasurer: Stan Glodek  
410-838-0461  
Formation Director:  
Joy LaCour  
443-619-6566  
Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Ng  
Spiritual Assistant:  
Br. Emmanuel Wenke, O.F.M.  
Conv. 301-346-4799

### Prayer

#### Intentions



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

### June Professions



Barbara Teller 6/04/78  
Joan Jackson 6/12/10



Joy LaCour 6/1  
Virginia Bahr 6/27

### Words of Padre Pio

Padre Pio once  
wrote: *"I am aflame  
though there is no fire. A  
thousand flames consume  
me. I feel that I am dying,  
yet I am still alive."*

"Padre Pio suffered  
severe bouts of extreme  
fevers which ran as high as  
125 degrees F. Documents  
and broken thermometers  
attest to that which  
medical science can offer  
no explanation. It certainly  
was not an exclusively  
physical nature. In the  
mystical life it is known as  
"fires of love" experienced  
also by other mystics."

From: *Padre Pio The  
Wonder Worker* published by  
Franciscan Friars of the  
Immaculate, New Bedford, MA.  
P.122

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**Apostolate Donation for May**  
to  
The Padre Pio Foundation -\$20  
**For June**  
The Franciscan Center- \$20

### Welcome - Richard Elliott

At the May Gathering the Fraternity welcomed Richard Elliott. We are very happy that Richard has discerned to take the next step of Inquiry.



Richard with Sponsor Barbara Teller



Ginger Bahr acting in place of the Formation Director, Richard Elliott, Barbara Teller and Bonnie Ng



Spiritual Assistant Br. Emmanuel Wenke, O.F. M. Conv. And Richard

Thank you to Margaret Wise. O.F.S. for taking photos.

### Photos From The Regional Retreat

The Regional Retreat was held May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Priestfield Pastoral Center. In attendance from St. Padre Pio Fraternity were: Bonnie Ng, Donna and Roland Willard, Mary Simmons and Evelyn Yawn.



Mary, Donna, Roland, Bonnie and Evelyn



Susan Greif with companion Jackson (who is always a delight to pet and give attention to) and Bob Longo, Regional Minister



Michele Dunne discussing the Liturgy of the Hours with Fr. Michael Meza, O.F.M. Cap.

## The Awakening of My Franciscan Vocation

God called me to live the Gospel of Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi over three decades ago. However, regular attendance to fraternity meetings was difficult for me, sometimes impossible due to military moves and family responsibilities with 6 children and also because I was lax. I had no sense of purpose as a Franciscan.

It was not until my recent attendance at the Regional Retreat that I became convicted that being a Secular Franciscan is indeed a divine calling. The retreat was given by Brother Michael, a Capuchin, whose first two talks did not really make an impression or impact on me because I could not understand his continual reference to being convicted in our Franciscan vocation. I realized later that this was due to my own inner conflict to my Franciscan call. Following Brother's last three talks, I realized that it was this very lack of conviction, commitment, and community that had led to my lack of purpose.

I learned that our mission is to listen to the Holy Spirit and then to gently minister to whoever the Holy Spirit guides us to or sends to us. It is in the circumstances of our daily life of family and friends, neighbors and strangers that God will use us. As Franciscans we are to see the face of Jesus in everyone without exception, to love as Jesus loves and to respect and join with all of creation in giving glory to God.

The Sacraments of Our Holy Mother, the Church, cleanse us, heal us, nourish us, bless us, and strengthen us to live as God's children on Earth. Our Franciscan vocation emphasizes fraternity, where we receive nourishment and strength from each other to grow with God's grace as we continue to carry out the mission that began in San Damiano when Our Lord called St. Francis to repair and rebuild His Church.

This retreat was truly an awakening of my Franciscan Call and a Blessing!

Evelyn Yawn, O.F.S.

## Words of St. Francis

Because God is a spirit, therefore it is only by the spirit He can be seen, for "it is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing." **Admonitions, 1**

**Reflection:** Francis gives his followers the message that sanctity is a work of the Holy Spirit.

While most of the things we seek in life depend on our own hard work and rugged individualism, that is not the way of achieving holiness. Only a movement of the Holy Spirit can make us holy."

**Scripture:** It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh can achieve nothing." Jn.6:63

From: *Day to Day with St. Francis* by Peter A. Giersch. P. 85

## From the Formation Director

### Franciscans:

- Are optimistic and joyful
- see the beauty, goodness and love of God everywhere
- understand the whole of creation is filled with a loving God
- realize God speaks to them through their senses
- love the Gospels, they have a special appeal for our spirituality
- are more about being (evangelical/gospel people) than just doing (apostolic mission people). These two aspects need balance.
- Understand Jesus's Incarnation is the visible, audible, tangible presence of God upon earth; the center around which our spirituality revolves
- See Jesus as our brother and beloved Son of God
- Not concerned with past or future, live for the day

*FUN Manual Introduction to the Franciscan Family 3-23-2011 page 3 of 12* submitted by Joy LaCour, O.F.S.



St. Francis and St. Clare @St. Bonaventure University

St. Francis and St. Clare pray for us.

Commented [b1]:

### Minister's Message

This year's regional retreat was outstanding. The conferences given by Br. Michael Meza, O.F.M. Cap. were geared to our vocation as Secular Franciscans. Br. Michael understands what it means to be a Secular Franciscan because he was a Secular Franciscan before he became a Capuchin Friar. My only disappointment and regret was that not every one of my brothers and sisters of St. Padre Pio Fraternity was present as well, both Professed and those in Formation.

Brother gave five conferences. I will make an attempt here to share with you what was imparted to us at the Retreat from my notes though I will have to do this in stages in subsequent newsletters.

The first conference was entitled *Called Forth in Our Salvation*. We are first called by our Baptism. Baptism is the moment we are immersed in Christ. Baptism purifies us of sin. It also tells us who we are- children of God because it "makes us a "new creature" and "partaker of divine nature", a member of Christ and co heir with him and a temple of the Holy Spirit". (CCC:1265 and 1266). In addition to purification, by Baptism we are justified and sanctified. "The Most Holy Trinity gives the baptized, sanctifying grace, the grace of Justification- enabling them to believe in God, hope in God and to love him through theological virtues. -giving them the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit" (CCC: 1226). Reconciliation purifies us again and sanctifies us. Confirmation pushes us toward the sevenfold gifts of the Holy spirit: the way of wisdom, courage, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord. Fear of the Lord makes us want to be one with the Lord Jesus. Sin takes us away from Him.

How many of us profess that we are Secular Franciscans? Do we say yes every day? We must deepen our commitment every day. At Easter we renew our Baptismal Promises. As Secular Franciscans, we are deepening our call through means of our Baptismal Promises. By Baptism we share in the common priesthood of Jesus, in his prophetic mission and royal mission. (CCC1268). We Franciscans are Priest, Prophets and King. In sharing in the common priesthood of Christ, we offer the sacrifice of ourselves. We are prophets when we speak out and proclaim the Gospel and that Jesus Christ is Lord. We share in the kingship of Christ because we are part of the royal kingdom of God. The Church at Easter wants us to remember who we are through Baptism and helps us to do that by renewing our Baptismal promises. Another point that Br. Michael Meza made is that if we remember Easter, we must remember the suffering. As Franciscans and as any follower of Christ we must carry our cross in imitation of Jesus. It was through Jesus's death on the Cross that the gates of heaven were opened for us.

Br. Michael ended the conference with the words of St. Francis" Let us begin again for up to now we have done nothing."

Following the first conference, Regional Minister, Bob Longo, said that "Each one of us should be encouraging others" and gave us the **challenge** of saying to those we meet in the course of our daily encounters "**May you have a Blessed Day.**" "This gives people something to think about. As Franciscans we are called to live the Beatitudes. We need to be heard and what better way than by encouraging others."

Bonnie Ng, O.F.S