

THE LITTLE PORTION

AUGUST 2019

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Fraternity

Ordo Saecularis Franciscanus St. Margaret of Cortona Region



Next Fraternity Gathering

August 26, 2019

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

Apostolate Donation
The Franciscan Center
\$20

AGENDA

7:30 pm: **Opening Prayer** page 35 of Ritual Book

Liturgy of the Hours: August 26th The 21st Week of Ordinary Time.

In Christian Prayer: Page 723

Hymn: #155 The Church's One Foundation page 1677

President: Margaret Wise

Antiphonarian: Ginger Bahr

Reader: Donna Willard

Ongoing Formation: Discuss Questions 3and(if time)4 on page 39 of
The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition

Facilitator: Br. Emmanuel

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

August Birthdays



Stan Glodek	8/4
Mary Simmons	8/12
Anne Dulik	8/13
Donna Willard	8/17
Barbara Teller	8/24
Roland Willard	8/28

The Blessing of New Life



Congratulations to Ginger and Henry Bahr on the birth of their first grandchildren, twins **Dylan Christopher** weighing 6 lbs and **Lyla Florence** weighing 5lbs 11oz. They were born on July 9th. May the Lord grant many blessings upon them and their parents.

Words of St. Clare

“What you hold, may you always hold. What you do, may you always do and never abandon. But with swift pace, light step, and unswerving feet, so that even your steps stir up no dust, go forward securely, joyfully and swiftly, on the path of prudent happiness, believing nothing, agreeing with nothing which would dissuade you from this resolution or which would place a stumbling block for you on the way so that you may offer your vows to the Most High in the pursuit of that perfection to which the Spirit of the Lord has called you.”
From her 2nd letter to Agnes of Prague

Council

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A Message From Our Spiritual Assistant

Dear Brothers and Sisters -

May the Lord give you His Peace!

As you know, August finds Franciscans throughout the world commemorating in a special way the "poor Lady of Assisi," our dear Santa Chiara.

We have no way to quantify the influence she and her sisters ever since have had on the lives and ministries of the Friars Minor, and the Regular and Secular members of the Third Order.

Their prayers assuredly bring marvelous new blessings of God's Grace to all of us, magnifying His Merciful Love in innumerable ways to support us on our journey to our Heavenly Homeland.

The good Sisters also provide us with a constant source of inspiration by their fidelity and their vision - a perspective that is detached from the temporal cares that so easily distract us as we hurry about our busy lives.

I encourage you if you have the opportunity to visit one of the monasteries of Poor Clares near us. You can consult "Brother Google" for more specific information, but I will say that there are monasteries in Alexandria Virginia, in Wilmington Delaware, Chesterfield NJ, and Langhorn PA. While you may not be able to speak to the sisters directly, the places themselves exude an incredible spirit of holiness and joy that is truly contagious and very much worth the trip to experience. If you cannot physically make the trip, perhaps you can begin some written correspondence with the good sisters to form a union of prayer and to share the joy of Franciscan life in some more direct way! I know they LOVE to hear from their brothers and sisters of the Secular branch of the family!

Let us make it our prayer this month that St. Clare might help us to see clearly what is truly important in life, and to courageously pursue the same Treasure she discovered according to our own vocational callings. May all things that hinder us be cast aside, and may we ever more faithfully and joyfully walk the path to the arms of our Father. Amen!

Saint Clare, beloved spiritual mother of our Franciscan Family, please pray for us!

In Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and St. Francis,

Br. Emmanuel, OFM Conv.

A Short Reflection on St. Clare

St. Clare so bright, so clear knew her Calling. She responded with total trust to the Divine Will of the Father. Clare heard that still small voice of Love and surrendered everything. At that moment in time the world was behind her. Each step forward led her closer to Jesus and Francis and the Franciscan Order. Clare embraced her future and revealed to those who were sent to her what was theirs to do for Jesus.

We may not know what sorrows lie ahead of us; we only know that the Lord meets us there to sustain us. He brings Divine Grace and healing according to His Will.

Barbara Teller, O.F.S.

Salvation through the Franciscan Lens

From My Notes - 3rd Retreat Conference by Br. Michael Meza, O.F.M Cap.

Secular Franciscans proclaim Christ by their lives and words. Salvation History begins with Luke Chapter 1:29-38 through Mary's Yes.

The Creche of Greccio is Franciscan. Francis gave us Greccio where he saw the humble and poor Christ.

In the Words of Bonaventure written in the Major Legend, "The man of God stands before the manger, filled with piety, bathed in tears, and overcome with joy. A solemn Mass is celebrated over the manger, with Francis, a levite of Christ, chanting the Holy Gospel. Then he preaches to the people standing around him about the birth of the poor King, whom, whenever he means to call him, he called in his tender love, the babe from Bethlehem." Francis' mission was to bring them to God. (Brother Lawrence mentioned when we were studying the Major Legend that "Greccio was not a show but came out of Francis' prayer life.")

Are we full of tears and joy? Before all else we are children of God- a chosen people, a royal people. We have Greccio because Francis had love.

We need to build ourselves to rebuild the Church because we are the Living Stones. Mary's Yes gives us courage to move forward in the world because she gave us salvation. The people of God need a God that is with them – Not up there!

Formation is necessary because we are deepening our call. We are not just another group.

The conference ended with questions to reflect upon. Who is St. Francis for me? How can I inflame St. Francis in my life and my community? How can I show my Franciscan love to all; my children; my grandchildren; great grandchildren and others?

I underlined "Formation is necessary and we are not just another group" because our commitment to the Fraternity is essential to being a Secular Franciscan. This was the point of Br. Meza. By attending Fraternity Gatherings we are honoring the call that we received from the Holy Spirit. Ongoing Formation is for our enrichment and understanding of our vocation, our charism and rule of life. It is a time for sharing. Most importantly Fraternity is where we build up our relationship with each other. As God gave Francis brothers and Clare sisters so too God gave us each other.

Bonnie Ng, O.F.S.
Minister

Words of Padre Pio

"Whenever we fall into discouragement, let us stir up our faith and entrust ourselves to the arms of our heavenly Father, who is always ready to receive whoever sincerely comes to him."

from: *Padre Pio's Spiritual Direction for Everyday* By GianLuigi Pasquale.p.81

Upcoming Event
Mass
&
Multi Fraternity Picnic

Hosted By:

St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity

Date:Sunday September 15,2019

Place: Shrine of St. Anthony

12290 Folly Quarter Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Mass at 12 Noon

Picnic 1-4

Hamburgers ,hot dogs and bottled water will be provided.

Please bring a side dish or drink

Please let me know **by September 3rd** either by phone, email or text if you plan to attend so I can let St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity know the number to plan for from our fraternity.This event is a wonderful time together, sharing Mass, conversations and food with our brothers and sisters from other fraternities. Joy is part of our Franciscan charism and this is an experience of joy. It is a means to strengthen and celebrate our call as Secular Franciscans. Please try to attend.

Bonnie Ng, O.F.S,



St. Maximilian Kolbe Painting in the Church of Santa Croce, Florence, Italy

St. Maximilian's Feast Day was August 14th, a Franciscan Saint and Martyr. He said this about prayer:

“Prayer makes the world anew. Prayer is the necessary condition for the regeneration and life of every soul. Our external activity is all right; but obviously, it is not as important as our spiritual life; that is, our life of recollection, prayer, and personal love for God. By prayer you will surely obtain everything that is really useful, but you have to pray with much persistence, much perseverance, and an ever greater fervor.... It is prayer, not intelligence or writing, that gives efficacy to activity..... Prayer before and after activity. Petition, thanksgiving, reparation..... Prayer is a duty of primary importance.....It is more efficacious than words and good example. Conversions come from it. Prayer must be humble, confident and persevering. You can obtain all things for yourself and others by means of it.”

From:*Symbiosis: Contemplation and Action* . By Fr. Luigi Faccenda,O.F.M. Conv.Immacolata Press. Pages .66-67