



THE CLARION

St. Conrad Fraternity, Order of Franciscans Secular
St. Margaret of Cortona Region
Hanover, Pennsylvania

March / April 2020

Pax et Bonum

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From the Desk of Father Tage

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the Lord give you peace! The Season of Lent is a time “in the desert”, in which we prepare ourselves to celebrate the holy time of the Lord’s resurrection at Easter. Lent is a time for us to recall our baptism and to do penance. Through the waters of baptism, we were regenerated, reborn as sons and daughters of God the Father and brothers and sisters of Jesus. We seek to keep before us our identity as baptized Christians. Set apart by God, we do his will by proclaiming Christ to the world. Our penance is to identify and remove those things in our lives that keep us from loving God to the full. Through the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we show outwardly our inward desire to follow God more closely.

We have chosen to follow our Lord Jesus Christ after the example of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was a man who was thoroughly Christocentric. After his death, his brothers remembered him this way:

The brothers who lived with him know that daily, constantly, talk of Jesus was always on his lips, sweet and pleasant conversations about Him, kind words full of love. Out of the fullness of the heart his mouth spoke. So the spring of radiant love that filled his heart within gushed forth. He was always with Jesus: Jesus in his heart, Jesus in his mouth, Jesus in his ears, Jesus in his eyes, Jesus in his hands, he bore Jesus always in his whole body.

(The Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano, no. 115, in Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, vol 1. The Saint)

This Lent, like St. Francis, let us keep Jesus close to us, and be known as people who are thoroughly moved with love for Christ crucified. We will give highest honor to the name of Francis and the greatest glory to our God.

I wish for all of you a blessed Lent and a Happy Easter. May St. Francis and St. Conrad continue to intercede for the fraternity.

Peace and good,

Fr. Tage Danielson, OFM Cap

Minister's Message

The fraternity cannot function well unless Seculars contribute their skills and gifts. When candidates make profession for life, they choose to be co-responsible for fraternity life. They choose to be personally present at gatherings. They choose to bear witness when needed. They choose to be prayerful. They choose to engage in apostolic ministries. They choose to share ideas and new vision with the fraternity. They choose not to critique unless they have an alternative that is workable. They choose to support the fraternity in any way that is possible for them.¹

When each of us professed as Secular Franciscans, we were reminded that Fraternity is the core of the Franciscan way of life. At the conclusion of the Questioning part of the profession Mass, the minister makes this statement, "The local Fraternity is a visible sign of the Church, a community of faith and love. Together with all the members, you now pledge yourselves to spend your efforts to make the Fraternity a genuine ecclesial assembly and a living Franciscan community."

Just as we are called to worship at Mass as a community, our fraternity functions as a community and needs our participation and support. So, if you haven't attended a fraternity gathering in awhile due to age and physical limitations, maybe you could email, phone, write a letter, or even visit the fraternity from time to time. We would love to hear from you and be able to "catch-up." For those in good physical health who regularly attend gatherings, consider visiting those no longer able to attend. If visiting is not an option, you could send a card or phone those we haven't seen in a long time.

¹ Lester Bach, OFM Cap., *Pick More Daisies – Ongoing Formation for Secular Franciscans* (Lindsborg, Kansas: Barbo-Carlson Enterprises, 2004), p. 187.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that our elections are coming up in May. Please prayerfully consider serving your fraternity by running for an office or accepting a nomination should one come your way. Holding an office is a great way to learn more about your fraternity, share your skills and talents, and build relationships. And don't worry about it – everyone is supportive and will do their best to make sure you succeed.

This Lent, as we seek a closer and even more personal relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ, through prayer, fasting and abstinence, and almsgiving, let us remember our Franciscan profession and the promises we made and include our Franciscan Fraternity as a part of our path to greater holiness.

Pax et bonum,
Jeff Topper

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

March

Evangelization – Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

April

Universal – Freedom From Addiction

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Profession

Congratulations to Mary Harp and Bill McKenzie who professed on January 18, 2020, at St. Joseph's Church in Hanover, Pennsylvania. Family members of both Mary and Bill were present to participate in the Mass and witness the profession which began at 10:00AM. The public had also been invited to attend. A reception followed and was held in the social hall at the church. Thanks to all who braved the weather that day.

On-Going Formation

Kathy Clagg will lead the discussion on Rule #4 at March's Gathering.

Prayer for Franciscan Vocations

O God, when the world was growing cold, you called blessed Francis to enkindle your love in the hearts of men. Increase in us the warmth of the Holy Spirit. We also pray that you will increase the number of our brothers and sisters in the Lay Order of St. Francis, so that through them and all others leading a Christian life, the world may be worthy to receive your Peace and Goodness and give glory to you; through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

March Birthdays

Sherlynn Holland 3/13
Shirley Hewitt 3/14
Mary Minor 3/27

April Birthdays

Rosemarie Fabian..... 4/8

March Profession Anniversaries

No Profession Anniversaries

April Profession Anniversaries

Concetta Glorioso 4/29/2017

March Necrology

Francis Bowman3/11/1966
Maria Fuller3/13/1996
Lillian Bowman3/14/1999

April Necrology

Beatrice Eckenrode4/27/2009
Constance Fabie.....4/23/1972
Harold Quirk.....4/30/1993
Suzanne Reimer 4/9/2015

Important Dates in March

March 2 - St. Agnes of Bohemia
March 8 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 9 - St. Catherine of Bologna
March 17 - St. Patrick’s Day
March 18 - Profession of St. Clare
March 19 - St. Joseph, husband of BVM
March 25 - The Annunciation of the Lord

Important Dates in April

April 2 - Saint Francis of Paola
April 5 - Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)
April 10 - Good Friday
April 12 - EASTER SUNDAY
April 16 - Saint Bernadette (Lourdes)
April 19 - Divine Mercy Sunday
April 23 - Blessed Giles of Assisi
April 25 - St. Mark the Evangelist

Fraternity Prayer Vine

Please continue to pray for the health and the intentions of:



- José Barata
- Mary Barrick
- Pat Bilz
- Fr. Richard Forcier, OFM Conv
- Jessica – get well soon
- Mary Lou Gennaula
- Concetta Glorioso-special intention
- Sherlynn Holland
- Mary Minor
- Jackie Redding
- Sr. Cecilia Reilly

Just a reminder: if you want your prayer need(s) added to the prayer vine, or if you wish to have your name removed, please let your editor know (717-637-2026).

Prayer at Gatherings

At March’s gathering we will pray the Stations of the Cross for Lent.

At April’s gathering we will pray the Liturgy of the Hours.