



THE CLARION

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

May / June 2020

Pax et Bonum

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From the Desk of Father Tage

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Easter Sunday, love conquered death, love illuminated the darkness, love overcame all sin and evil to inaugurate a new creation. Mary of Magdala, Peter, and the beloved disciple were three people who had been touched by Jesus' love for them. Love demands a response, and they were there on that first Easter morning to witness to their love.

Jesus is the one who first loved us, who brought us into relationship with himself through our baptism. He continues to show his love for us in our lives, and especially at times like the current one, where people live in isolation and fear, where sickness and death have swept across our world. The message from our Lord is this: Death and darkness will not have the last word! Through his resurrection, Jesus has conquered all -- he has brought life and light where death and darkness have reigned. The resurrection of Jesus inaugurates a new beginning; it buds forth joy and hope for all us. The proper response is praise and thanksgiving and to keep the memory of this day alive in our hearts.

The 17th century English clergyman and poet George Herbert writes of the resurrection with these words, speaking to Jesus:

I got me flowers to straw thy way:
I got me boughs off many a tree:
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

The Sun arising in the East,
Though he give light, and th'East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine endeavour?
We count three hundred, but we miss:
There is but one, and that one ever.

All of our days are caught up forever in the one day of the Lord's Resurrection. The emptiness of the tomb has revealed the fullness of God the Father's love for us in his Son. Our days are filled with joy knowing that Christ is risen, death and darkness are overcome, and love reigns victorious. Like the friends of Jesus in the Gospel who run to the tomb, let us race to the tomb and see. The tomb is empty! Jesus is risen! Rejoice and be glad for love has won. Alleluia! Alleluia!

May St. Francis and St. Conrad continue to intercede for the fraternity.

Peace and good,
Fr. Tage Danielson, OFM Cap

Minister's Message

Here we are – almost seven weeks into staying-at-home as one way of limiting the spread of the Coronavirus. Seven weeks of going nowhere, no church, no eating out, no movies, no shopping except for essentials, and for some, no work. Has life become boring, drudgery, and no fun? Useless?

Think for a minute about what life was like in a monastery in the Middle Ages. When women entered the Order of Poor Clares, they had to renounce all their possessions and give them to the poor. Under St. Clare candidates were simply not permitted to own property. They were also cloistered, which means they lived quietly and simply inside their walls and were not active or involved in the normal, busy life outside their walls. Each had their own tasks to perform. Life was a routine of silence, prayer, work, and meals.

Many people today would view this kind of life as useless and unproductive. In a way, isn't this how the sick and the elderly are also thought of? Whether the aged are living at home or living in a nursing home, seldom getting any visitors, – what are they accomplishing? Many people are sick, suffering from illnesses, or recovering from surgery. What good can they do?

What superficial thinking! Everyone has a mission from God. A prayerful, contemplative life can be the ultimate expression of adoration. A life lived adoring God recognizes the reality that God is great and is worth any

sacrifice. A life lived for God gives it the ultimate purpose and meaning. Every person, in each stage of life, has a God-given job to do. It gets difficult, though, to fulfill your mission if you are too focused on yourself and how “bad” things are rather than seeing all the blessings God showers on us each day.

Regardless of when things get back to normal, we should all stay focused on the mission that is ours, given to us by God. It’s important, too, to think about the blessings and graces the Lord gives us each day. Hopefully, having gone through this time of quarantine, we can better appreciate what others may be going through and, armed with new insight, better accomplish the mission God has given us.

Pax et bonum,
Jeff Topper

Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions

May

For evangelization - For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

June

For evangelization - The Way of the Heart

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way of life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

Franciscan Obituary – Richard (Dick) Bonini

Richard Bonini entered God’s eternal care on Saturday, April 18, at his home in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania with his wife, Polly, present.

Dick became minister of our fraternity in May, 2002. During his term as minister he professed three new members. He served a full three-year term that ended May, 2005. After his term ended, Dick, spent his time faithfully taking care of Polly.

Dick professed as a Secular Franciscan on June 19, 1994.

On-Going Formation

Since we can’t have our regular Gatherings and don’t know when it will be possible to resume them, continue reading *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*, rules 4 – 7. Let’s agree to read and meditate on them and reflect on how we are putting them into practice in our daily lives. Even though we are doing this individually in our own homes, let’s unite spiritually by doing this during the times of

our regular Gatherings. Also, let's continue to pray as a fraternity during our Gathering times by praying either the Rosary or the Franciscan Crown Rosary.

God Bless You and, if possible, please take time to reach out to fellow fraternity members by phone, email, or letters. You just might make their day.

May Birthdays

Hendrika Strathmeyer 5/22

June Birthdays

Pat Bilz 6/22

Delores Caicco..... 6/17

May Profession Anniversaries

No May Profession Anniversaries

June Profession Anniversaries

José Barata 6/3/2002

Sherlynn Holland6/29/2008

Mary Minor6/24/1979

Henny Strathmeyer6/27/1982

May Necrology

Marguerite Eriksson 5/8/1984

Raymond Moore 5/7/1983

Thelma Moore 5/7/2012

Thomas Murnane5/25/1978

John Rebert 5/4/2013

June Necrology

Margaret Nash6/24/1988

Frances Provenza6/20/1996

Sophia Sauerwald6/27/1984

Angela Wintrode 6/4/1995

Important Dates in May

May 1 - St. Joseph the Worker

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima

May 16 - St. Margaret of Cortona

May 20 - St. Bernardine of Siena

May 21 - The Ascension of the Lord

May 31 - Visitation of the BVM and
Pentecost Sunday

Important Dates in June

June 1 - BVM, Mother of the Church

June 7 - The Most Holy Trinity

June 13 - St. Anthony of Padua

June 14 - The Most Holy Body and Blood
of Christ (Corpus Christi)

June 19 - The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 20 - The Immaculate Heart of Mary

June 21 - Father's Day

June 29 - Saints Peter and Paul

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).