

The Porter -- August 2020
Saint Conrad's Fraternity -- Severna Park, Maryland
Saint Magaret of Cortona Region

*"Whoever cares for the poor lends to the LORD,
who will pay back the sum in full."—Proverbs 19:17*

FRATERNITY MEETING

Zoom video conferencing meeting - Saturday, August 15 at 10:00 AM (Expect email invitation from Joan)

We suggest you join the meeting at 9:50 AM. If you have any questions or problems joining, please contact Joan at 301-655-3876, or Chris at 410-814-9227. We have been using Zoom for Council Meetings And one Fraternity Meeting with great success!

*For, I am sure that you know that the kingdom of heaven is promised and given
by the Lord only to the poor, because as long as something temporal is the object of love,
the fruit of charity is lost. - St. Clare of Assisi, First Letter to Agnes of Prague*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Kellie Eye (grand daughter of Susan Grief) □ Katherine Henry (daughter-in-law of Mary Henry) □ Mary Henry and her niece □ Stephen (great grandson of Mary Henry) □ Mary Jo Johnson □ Joe McGeady □ John McHugh (brother of JoeMcHugh) □ Michelle niece of Denise Miante □ Bill Mulqueen □ Ruth Shea's husband □ Evelyn Jone's niece □ Jimmy Wilbourne (son of Genny Wilbourne) □ Deacon Chris Pinto

*"Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for he who
created you has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother.
Blessed be you, my God, for having created me." - St. Clare of Assisi*

BIRTHDAYS:

Bob Ranke - August 22

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY:

Brigid Cobb - August 3, 1983

TREASURY

August ending balance \$1,581.28

Please send your financial support to our Treasurer, Joseph McHugh, 1740 Tedbury St, Crofton, MD

Highlights

This month we gave \$700 to the food pantry at Saint Camillus Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. This is a direct service ministry whose goal is to promote food security for members of the Saint Camillus family and local residents. Our brother Tobey is the principal of their school and actively involved this ministry.

July's ending Balance \$1,956.28

August Income \$ 515.00

Distributions

Saint Camillus Food Pantry \$700.00

Franciscan Family Apostolate \$100.00

Phoenix Academy \$ 50.00

Phoenix Academy \$ 50.00

Bus Tokens Lighthouse Academy \$ 40.00

August Ending Balance \$1,581.28

SAVE THE DATE

- October 10, 2020 Br. Rigo's ordination to priesthood. Pittsburgh, PA
- September 1 - October 4, 2020 <https://seasonofcreation.org/>
- August 18-22, 2021 Quinquennial in Phoenix, AZ

AUGUST FRANCISCAN CALENDAR

- ❖ Saint Clare of Assisi - August 11
- ❖ Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe - August 14
- ❖ Saint Louis of Toulouse - August 18

*"Indeed, blessed poverty, holy humility, and inexpressible charity are reflected in that mirror, as, with the grace of God, you can contemplate them throughout the entire mirror."
- St. Clare of Assisi, "The Fourth Letter to Agnes of Prague"*

HOLY MEN & WOMEN – MOTHER LANGE

Mother Lange was born around 1789 in what is today Haiti to a well-off family. She, along with hundreds of others, fled that country in the late 18th century when a revolution occurred. She came to Baltimore, where a great number of Catholic, French-speaking refugees had settled. Although Elizabeth was a refugee, she was well-educated and wealthy due to money left to her by her father.

Prior to the Emancipation Proclamation, there was no public education for Blacks in Baltimore since Maryland was a slave state and the education of slaves was outlawed. Mother Lange took charge of educating Black children in her own home in Baltimore at her own expense with another female refugee.

Archbishop James Whitfield challenged Elizabeth to establish a religious order of women for the education of Black children. In 1828, with the help of Sulpician Father James Joubert, S.S., Mother Lange and two other Black women started the first Black Catholic school in the Catholic Church in America. A year later, on July 2, 1829, three Black women, and Mother Lange pronounced vows to become the first religious order of women of African descent. She took the name Mary at her profession of vows. Mother Lange served as the first mother superior of the order from 1829 to 1832, then again from 1835 to 1841.

Despite discouragement, racism and a lack of funds, Mother Lange continued to educate children and meet the total needs of the Black Catholic community.

She died on February 3, 1882 and is buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery on Old Frederick Road. Today the Oblate Sisters of Providence number 125 sisters, 20 associates and 16 Guild members. Their motto: Providence will Provide!

Source: Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, Maryland State Archives.

"Love God, serve God; everything is in that." - St. Clare of Assisi

54 DAY MIRACLE NOVENA OF PEACE -- From Catherine

Please watch the video in which Fr. Tony Blount and Fr. Jim Blount (they are brothers) sponsored by Queen of Peace Media are requesting participation in a 54 day novena (27 days of petition and 27 days of thanksgiving). This includes the recitation of one rosary per day for the specific intention of "Peace with the Upcoming Election". August 15 will begin with the Joyful mysteries, August 16 the Sorrowful, August 17 the Glorious and repeat the cycle (the Luminous are not included in the original novena). The novena will end on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, October 7. For more information see:

<https://queenofpeacemedia.com/fifty-four-day-novena/>

"Gaze upon Christ, consider Christ, contemplate Christ, imitate Christ."

-- St. Clare of Assisi, 2nd Letter to Agnes of Prague

SECRETARY'S BY-LINE -- by Chris

Several weeks ago I was graciously asked to participate in a Patriotic Rosary by well meaning members of our fraternity. For those who are unaware the fifth mystery of the Patriotic Rosary contains prose from Robert E. Lee. I was taken aback to hear people defend his integrity as a decent and heroic person. Lee's elevation from slaveholder and soldier to kindly gentlemen is a key part of a 150-year-old propaganda campaign designed to erase slavery as the cause of the Civil War and whitewash the Confederate cause as a noble one.

I for one believe this mythologizing of an American historical figure needs to be replaced by a recounting of the historical facts. Just as we search our own spirit for the wrongs we have done, it is time we recognize the wrongs done by our democracy.

There is no doubt Lee was a great military tactician and a devout Christian. However, as Frederick Douglas said, "There is a profound difference between the Christianity of America and the Christianity of Jesus Christ." He was speaking about people like Lee.

Lee is responsible for hundreds of thousands of American deaths while defending the South's authority to own millions of human beings as property because they are black. White supremacy was one of Lee's most fundamental convictions.

Lee routinely separated and sold off members of families. Picture never seeing your husband, wife, sons or daughters again. Those who root their sense of religion in hatred, exclusion and bigotry like Lee have

truly failed. There is an excellent article on the subject in The Atlantic magazine here. I encourage you to read it!

The Myth of the Kindly General Lee, The Atlantic Magazine

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/06/the-myth-of-the-kindly-general-lee/529038/>

The Blessed Virgin Mary is often depicted in art holding a dove and an olive branch as symbols of peace - the Queen of Peace. We can do much better as Secular Franciscans than the Patriotic Rosary in asking Blessed Mother to heal the deep divisions in our country.